Church Management

THE FALLS CHURCH

Falls Church Virginia

(See page 64)

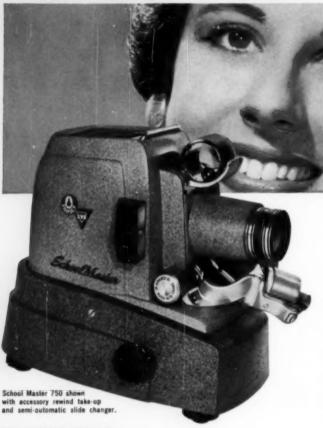
NOVEMBER 1960

VOLUME XXXVII
Number 2

Southern Desk Company, History, North Carolina



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Prompted by an impulse arising from a sense of appreciation on reading your article in the September issue of Church Management entitled "Should the Church Venture into Psychic Research?", I send you enclosed a copy of The Intercourse between the Soul and the Body by Swedenborg.

Since your article mentions the author's name you may be familiar with this essay already, or even if not, aware that he condemns as dangerous the practice of spiritism-or spiritualism as commonly understood-in no uncertain terms

> T. H. Spiers Swedenborg Foundation

SEPTEMBER COVER

Dear Sir:

Just saw the September 1960 issue and can't thank you enough for the beautiful job you did on the cover. In particular, we appreciated the cover 'plug" in which our name is mentioned. This is, indeed, wonderful!

The photo itself also looks very good and since we like everything so much we wonder if we could obtain six or twelve additional copies of the issue.

Again, thanks for the help in setting this cover up. The results are outstanding.

Donald Plouff, Exec. V. Pres. Studios of Potente, Inc.

LIKES ARTICLE

Dear Sir:

I enjoyed very much your article in the current Church Management, which my pastor, Lee Huebert (Presbyterian), brought to me. Congratulations on the way it was done, and the doing of it.

John W. Aiken, D.O. Socorro, New Mexico

TENEBRAE SERVICE

Dear Sir:

How graciously you remind me, in your letter of August 4th, that the matter of permission to reproduce copyrighted material never occurred to me!

Alright, if you wish to reprint my letter with 25c as the cost of mailing a copy of the service, rubrics and words of the hymns and the responsive read-

(turn to page 8)

Church Management

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Manuscripts

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articles which may be submitted for
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should be typewritten. Unacceptable
manuscripts will be returned if accompanied by return postage.
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The Black Horror 15 QUOTABLE VERSE Three Sins—Ona Roberts Wright 37 A Power Within—Bob Richards 74 **BOOKS FOR NOVEMBER** READERS' COMMENTS INDICES



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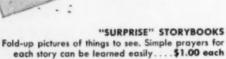
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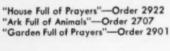
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(continued from page 6)

ing, thank you.

I have fifty copies of the above material on hand for any subsequent requests which may come.

William J. Fraxer Moosic, Penna.

TAX ARTICLES

Dear Sir:

Yours is a most helpful and friendly publication, and is always welcome when it arrives. I have especially appreciated the fact that you give some attention to the income tax problems of the minister, which problems are not always fully understood by the ordinary tax consultant. But I would like to suggest that since it may be that a good many ministers try to get their returns in before the 15th of January it would serve better if the tax articles were to be published no later than in the December issue.

Elmer L. Brooks Colby, Kansas

VALUE TO MINISTERS

Dear Sir:

I have frequently wanted to make some comments on a particular article in Church Management, but for some reason I never got around to it.

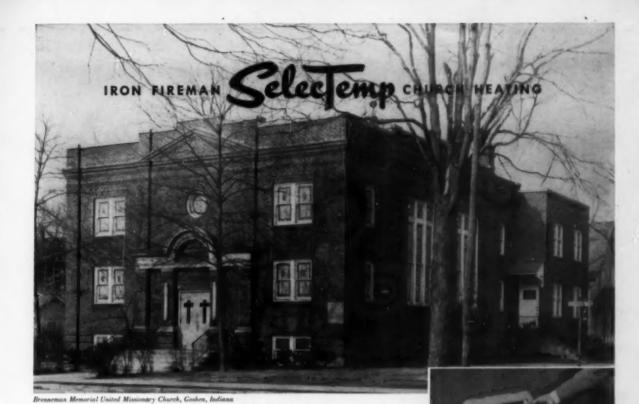
However, Webb Garrison's, "Twelve Baskets of Fragments" has pushed me to writing a comment. I must say it is a fine article.

His suggested use of the Scripture as the place where one can see the reflection of his own existence should cause a few preachers to think twice. The presuppositions which underlie his article are moving. I suppose one could say here is an existentialist approach to the Scriptures for the minister.

The Scripture will mean nothing unless the individual discovers the meaning there for himself. Here in the pages of the Holy Word is the reflection of our own joys, struggles, defeats and heartaches. But here too is the assurance of God's presence to we who are preoccupied with everything but God.

Even his "how-to's" were above the average. They led me to send a large order to the American Bible Society.

(turn to page 48)



"Every individual room has the heat it wants" says Pastor Wagley

A thermostat in every room

"In desperation we sought a heating system that would solve our problems," reports the Rev. Paul E. Wagley, Goshen, Indiana. "We have been smoked out, frozen out and sweated out. My study had to have an auxiliary heater. The toddlers had two or three electric heaters sitting around. In the sanctuary, those near the side windows shivered; those nearer the center were warm.

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Learning the Facts of Church Growth

A recent release by the Associated Press gives the figures on the growth of religious bodies during the past ten years. There has been some consternation among those who have read the report to learn that the greatest growth among religious bodies has not been with the older, well-established denominations, but with the newer and more evangelistic groups.

For instance, the report credits the United Pentecostal Church with increasing its following by 60%; the Assemblies of God, up 75%; Pentecostal Holiness, up 58%; Nazarenes, up 39%. In contrast with these figures, the Roman Catholic Church, despite the big influx of European refugees, is up only 53%; the Missouri Synod Lutherans, up 37%; the United Presbyterians, up 6%; the American Baptists*, up 1%.

While we do not have too much confidence that the Associated Press is sufficiently familiar with denominations to correctly name the churches, we think there is a natural explanation of this growth which bothers so many of the brethren.

The growth of society is upward. The low-income groups of 1920 produced the new millionaires of 1960; from the illiterate of two generations ago come the scholars of today. The same rule of growth is found in denominations. In the beginning these are unimpressive groups, both religiously and socially; but given a generation, they blossom out as great religious bodies.

By the time the second generation comes along the pattern has usually been set. Ambitious ecclesiastics reign over our contented city churches. Every effort is made to regiment the local churches so that the members can rightfully chant, "Like a mighty army moves the Church of God." Their missionary zeal gives way to respectability; their naivete, to sophistication. They prefer to conform rather than to evangelize.

The loss of appeal in some of the major denominations is inevitable because they have grown old, become static and self-satisfied. While this has been happening newer groups have been formed, closer to the grass roots.

^oThe press release says, "National Baptists." We cannot locate such a denomination.

THE PROFESSIONAL JOURNAL OF THE CHURCHES

We could naturally expect that the new denominations outgrowing the secthood would garner the members. To us it is surprising that the Missouri Synod Lutheran Church and the Episcopal Church made the gains that they did. There must be some kind of rejuvenation going on in these bodies. The great denominations such as the Methodists, with 9% growth, the Presbyterians, with 6% growth, and the American Baptists, with 1% growth, need an innoculation of youthfulness.

We had a splendid illustration of this while entertaining a caller in our office. He represented one of the fellowships just reaching the status of respectability. He had a very serious problem in his parish work. He explained it in this way:

"I find it very difficult to fraternize with my ministerial brethren who are serving these evangelistic sects which are flooding our community."

Is There Any Substitute for Meetings?

An inquiring mind has come up with an astounding discovery. It is the total amount which churchmen and churchwomen of the Methodist Church spend in one year in the United States to attend and participate in religious gatherings of various kinds. The figure given is \$34,427,100. That certainly "ain't hay."

Yet we suppose that any effort to challenge the value of the money so spent would touch one of the most sensitive areas of Protestant church living. Churches and conventions go together. Every issue must be debated by a conference or a convention. The minister who would hesitate to pay thirty dollars per year for good books will spend a hundred dollars to attend a meeting of some kind. That amount of money spent in missionary promotion or in the feeding of underfed children in the world would do wonders.

Despite the glamor of these meetings, promoters seem to be meeting resistance in promoting them. Local churches develop a specialized group of "convention goers." These groups represent but a small proportion of the membership. As a result the convention method of spreading publicity breaks down. It does not reach the number of members or the type

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of members who need the information which is publicized.

We run across many ministers who complain that denominational gatherings come too often. They take the pastor away from his local duties. Conventions were more successful before the days of printed publicity. They seemed to have a very essential place at that time. With the great costs of these meetings at the present time, local church members have a right to ask that their leaders prove their necessity and that there is not some other method of communication which can do a better job—and at less cost.

Some months ago we published several letters of criticism about the total cost of new church construction. The correspondents thought that we should use our old churches and send the building money to needed Christian enterprises abroad. Would not the same criticism hold for this large expenditure of convention money?

Religious Issues Emerge

Of course no honest, thinking person imagined that the nation could go through the present political campaign without religion being brought in as an issue. Now we have had several weeks of the campaign, and the voters are being bombarded with literature in the form of broadsides, leaflets, magazine articles, and magazine advertising.

The material may be divided into two classes.

First, there is an abundance of scurrilous material which is offensive to decent citizens. All minority groups have had plenty of this thrown at them. The Jews have been baited by their fellow citizens; Negroes are constantly subjected to unfair attacks; neither Catholics nor Protestants can expect exemption. The bogus Knights of Columbus oath belongs to this category. The so-called "Protocols of the Elders of Zion" is a similar publication attacking Judaism.

There is also much literature which raises issues in a fair way and presents arguments which are relevant to the present situation. For instance, the POAU (Protestants and Other Americans United for Separation of Church and State) had a full-page advertisement in *The Christian Century*. It sets in parallel columns contrasting points of view regarding church and state separation. In the left-hand column is an outline of the Catholic position as given in the Winter 1960 edition of *Catholic Lawyer*. In the right-hand column is given a portion of the United States Supreme Court's decision on the McCullum case (333 U.S. 203). It is a good, logical presentation which can hardly be called out of place in the political situation.

Christianity Today (issue of September 12, 1960) carries an open letter written by Charles Clayton Morrison, one-time editor of The Christian Century, addressed to Senator Kennedy. There is no fakery in

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that letter. It is readable and clear. Mr. Morrison is entitled to an answer. If you want a copy of this letter, write to *Christianity Today*, 1014 Washington Building, Washington 5, D. C.

We do not feel that publication of material of this kind stimulates bigotry. Rather it should stimulate thought on the problems we face in America as we try to absorb so many races and religious heritages. Discussions of this subject should not be offensive to anyone if they are kept on a high level.

There are some vital questions in the area of churchstate separation. To ignore them may in the long run be more costly than openly discussing them.

The Black Horror

The realization that sixteen of the seventeen new nations joining the United Nations come from Africa is quite a story in itself. If the transition from colonial possessions to independence had been accomplished in an orderly manner, it would indeed be a great triumph for democracy. But stories of rapine, murder, and cruelty reported from the Congo have clouded the scene. Many forget the great thrust toward democracy, and rush to the verdict that the disorder demonstrates that the black man is not ready for self-government.

Before we reach the conclusion that such atrocities are characteristic of any one nation or people, let's look over some of the pages of history. This look will tell us that cruelty is found as often among the people of noble and high cultures as in the underprivileged areas of the world.

In the fifteenth century, Spain probably was supreme among the nations of the world in wisdom and culture. Yet in that century its nobles and clergy were responsible for launching the Inquisition, which has seldom been equalled in sadism and cruelty. Their superior intelligence helped them create the most devilish forms of torture for the poor heretics they wanted to destroy. Appraisals of the lives destroyed range from four thousand to hundreds of thousands.

Let us move to another beacon of culture—France in the eighteenth century. The barbaric practices of murder and torture in the French Revolution could equal anything that has taken place in the Congo or in any other of the African states. The justice of the courts became a mockery, and the guillotine was busy twenty-four hours a day.

Come to more modern times. Take another people of superior culture—Germany. Starved in a land of plenty were the victims of Hitler. Millions of Jews perished. The stench of their burning bodies filled the atmosphere. Youth and age, male and female, shared in the sufferings.

These instances can, of course, be multiplied by dozens of others. Painful as it may be to see the natives of new nations giving way to barbarism, history definitely teaches us that the insane cruelty of humanity is not confined to primitive people or colored races.

Armchair to the Mission Fields

Maurine Clements*

I have been in a muddle of figures for the past year! And all without the aid of an I.B.M. machine, or even a plain, old adding machine. You'll understand, I think, just how difficult it was and what a strain this thing has been on my poor old brain when I tell you that I came up with the figure, \$34,427,100.00.

In Hollywood parlance that figure is stupendous! Colossal! Unbelievable, you say. Astounding and astronomical, I say, for \$34,427,100. is the figure I have estimated that my church's members spend in one year running around—or perhaps I should term it—travelling, here, there and yon.

What brought on this frenzy, or compilation, of figures and a severe headache on my part? It was while I was attending a conference meeting with a group of church ladies in Kansas City last year. When I should have been listening to the talks and the many reports, I became detached, mentally, from my group and began listing the expense of our six ladies who had travelled twenty miles, forty miles round trip, to meet with six hundred other ladies of our district.

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Figuring car expense at ten cents a mile, it had cost us \$4.00 for transportation. We had each eaten a very modest dollar lunch which added \$6.00. There was another \$6.00 for registration fees and a \$1.00 for parking the car. Two of the ladies had small children. Baby sitters for them chalked up \$4.00 more. A total for our own little carload, \$21.00 for the one day. Four days of the meeting would add up to \$84.00, and that multiplied by 100, (figuring that six came in a car) would total \$8400.00. However, at least half of the delegates came from a greater distance than had our group, making it necessary to engage a hotel room for at least three nights. Most of them paid on an average of \$8.00 a day; that shared by two

*Church and Sunday School werker, Lee's Summit, Missouri.

REAL ISSUE

Mrs. Clements has raised a real question in this article. While conventions are promoted at a heavy expense in time, effort, and money, world needs for help, both physical and spiritual, grow by leaps and bounds. Is it not time to try to find techniques other than meetings for church publicity? Perhaps the armchair and a good book is not the answer. What is?

would be \$4.00 each. Meals, a low average, \$3.00 a day. M-m-m. That would be \$7.00 a day extra for about three hundred women-or \$2100.00; for four days \$8400.00 plus \$8400.00 for the first group-\$16,800.00. Parking cars @ \$1.00 a day-\$100.00 a day, multiplied by four-\$400.00. That seemed like an astounding figure, I thought, but I knew that many had really paid double that amount for hotel accommodations and food. I figured that corsages, gifts, tips and extras would amount to more than \$3.00 a day. 600 women-\$1800.00; 4 days-\$7200.00. Transportation and expense for speakers and guests would be at least \$1000. A total of \$25,400.00.

How many hungry, under-nourished orphan children in Korea or in India would \$25,400.00 have fed and cared for, I contemplated? I turned my attention to the deaconess who was speaking at that moment, of her work at the Bethlehem Center in Tennessee, and of their great needs. She told of the hunger, the drab, unsanitary and unwholesome conditions in which many of them were forced to live, and the lack of decent and adequate clothing. The eves of this devoted Christian were moist with tears and her voice broke often with emotion as she related the touching incidents that "her people" had experienced and suffered. With more funds and more trained workers, she explained, thousands of lives could be brightened and souls brought into the Kingdom of God.

My first thought: A special offering ought to be taken right then while everyone felt a yearning desire to help. Then my thoughts took wing as once more my daydreams took on the fantastic shape of dollar signs. How many discouraged and lonely people could have been given decent shelter and introduced to a new way of life, through the leadership of Christian workers, just with the amount these six hundred women had spent on assembling at this four-day meeting held to discuss WAYS AND MEANS OF OFFERING ASSISTANCE TO SUFFERING PEOPLE.

Oh, what was I thinking? I knew that gatherings such as this, conventions, workshops, and conferences must necessarily be held to keep the interest of Christian women; to inform and inspire them to greater effort in the mission field, but still the thought kept nagging at my consciousness, What actual good, what concrete accomplishments, what miracles could have been realized if we could have translated theories into practice! A whole village in Vietnam or in Dr. Dooley's Laos, perhaps, could have been fed a year with our \$25,400.00; not only fed, but given the message of Christ's love and made aware of the concern of every Christian throughout

My daydreaming continued as figures, more figures, marched up and down the sheet of paper like alert soldiers, marching as if to war. If 600 women in one district had spent \$25,400.00 in four days, 21 districts in Missouri meeting simultaneously, would increase the expenditures to \$533,400; for the 551 districts of my church, nationally: \$13,995,400.

It was then that I heard the presiding officer announce at the close of the meeting that the employed women of the church would be convening in this very spot that evening for a two-day conference. Approximately, the same

number of women meeting together, using the same hotel rooms, parking lots, restaurants. Half of the amount of the first meeting, or \$6,977,700 added to \$13,995,400 would total \$20,993,100.

Just as I arrived at this gargantuan figure, my head reeled and my eyes ached from such intense concentration. but my ears caught still another announcement that about six hundred ministers would also be holding their annual conference here in this city, beginning the first of the week. This was going to be a busy month, indeed! I ignored my complaining brain and again dived into my purse for my pencil, worn by this time to a mere stub. The mountain of figures were increasing at an alarming speed, but being a person who, when starting a project, is not satisfied until it is completed, I kept doggedly on, adding, multiplying; never subtracting or dividing.

600 ministers, with an approximate expense sheet of \$10.00 a day—\$6,000; \$30,000 for their five-day conference. Travel expense for about 200 cars, (a few would be travelling together); 150 miles on the average, round trip, at 10c a mile would total \$15.00 each; 200 cars —\$3000.00. Parking for 200 cars @\$1.00—\$200.00; Five days, \$1000.00. Altogether, an amount of \$34,000.00; four conferences in Missouri—\$136,000.00; 101 conferences in the nation: \$3,434,000.

My head was really spinning this time, but the idea was mounting strong so I kept right on. I am familiar with the innumerable district, sub-district, annual, semi-annual, quarterly conferences throughout the states. Young people's groups, men's groups, family life conferences, study groups, finance groups, Camps, vacation Bible workshops, Monday-morning Minister's groups, and so on, and so on. Another ten million would be an extremely conservative figure for the forty-eight states. A staggering figure! The cost of gathering Christian people together for one year to meet, eat and talk!

\$3,434,000—Ministers Meeting; \$20,993,100 for Women's meeting; plus \$10,000,000 for miscellaneous groups— \$34,427,100. AND THAT FOR ONLY ONE DENOMINATION!

Granted, it creates a pleasant Christian fellowship to sit and sup with brothers in the faith. To spend some time in discussing problems and their solutions spells progress in any organization, (and I would be the last one to suggest the complete cessation of it.)

but this one idea struck me as I looked at the astronomical total of travel money spent during one twelve-month period: Would it not make a favorable and lasting impression upon the less fortunate of the world today, if we, in America, were to sacrifice for ONE YEAR our joy of travel in order that we might share our joy of eating and fellowship with them?

If that should seem too drastic—or unwise—perhaps one meeting might suffice for two. Even that amount could send more missionaries, more doctors, nurses, carpenters, men with the know-how for better living to translate our Christian words into ACTION.

For that one year our home groups could be more closely knit, aware of the magnitude of such a project. Greater effort could be put into working together, to interest every citizen in our communities, welding them into one great fellowship. The many, many hours spent in travelling to and from MEET-INGS might become more valuable and vital when utilized to better advantage. (I say this cautiously, for there are certainly exceptions to all rules) but I have often driven over two hundred miles in one day to attend a three-hour meeting that had not been well organized or one bit inspirational. A meeting had been held because the organization had been set up to hold a meeting at that specified time.

Needless Travelling

If less time were spent in needless travelling, the Bible might be dusted off and read more thoroughly; its teachings put into actual practice among the church members, our neighbors and certainly our families. There could, for that one year, be more time to devote to the interests of young people, for calls on the sick and aged, for quiet and meditation; hence there would be fewer frayed nerves and tired bodies, less frantic rushing about, planning and preparing for the hundreds of meetings which, because of their numbers, have a tendency to become dull and routine, rather than stimulating and inspiring. Ministers would find more time to be Pastors to their flocks, instead of just SPEAKERS for the Sunday morning service. A minister could drink deeper from the well of knowledge, refreshing his own soul that he might become the shepherd God needs for his people.

By putting this plan into operation for one year, it might be like having our cake and eating it, too. It could become a great boon, both to home missions and to foreign missions, multiplying the effectiveness of our dollars an hundred fold. Denominational magazines and other church papers could be our source of information as to the results and accomplishments of our YEAR FOR MISSIONS, and in the quiet of our own homes, we could meet together through their pages, and delight in the knowledge that we had shared our blessings and had been TWICE BLESSED ourselves.

(end)



WAYS TO MAKE MONEY:

The Talent Show by Marjorie J. Lewis*

Announce your plan and ask for applicants. There should be a limit on the number of applications. Too many participants make the program boring. The committee should select the applicants and notify them when to appear. It should also give them specific instructions as to what will be expected of them. The tickets should sell for the usual general admission customary in your community. Sell tickets in advance and be sure to get an auditorium large enough to accommodate the crowd.

Present your program in four parts:

1. Bathing Suits
2. Evening Fashions

3. Talent Show 4. Intelligence Quiz

You will need a panel of judges. Get the best available, such as a dancing teacher, a fashion model, a choral director, a TV production manager, and a newspaper man. This panel will be well qualified to judge any type of talent that may be presented. The judges should be seated at separate tables several feet apart, and all judging should be done by score sheets. Points should be given for poise, personality, appearance, and talent.

Students of the dance, soloists or a choral group, and an orchestra are needed to furnish entertainment while the girls are changing from one costume to another. The orchestra will also furnish background music for the fashion parade.

The talent show really puts your panel of judges to the test. Many of the contestants are versatile and have several talents. They should be allowed to show a combination of talents, such as a song

(turn to page 48)

*Director of Christian Education, East Main Street Christian Church, Xenia, O.



American City Bureau . professional fund-raising counsel

"Thy Kingdom Come...."

R. Kermyt Roebuck*

Brass quartet—outside THE ANTICIPATION

Prelude Call to Worship: LIGHTS ON FULL

O Zion, that bringest good tidings,
Get thee up to the heights and sing!
Proclaim to a desolate people
The coming of their King:
Like the flowers of the field they
perish,

The works of men decay, The power and pomp of nations Shall pass like a dream away.

But the word of our God endureth, The arm of the Lord is strong; He stands in the midst of nations, And He will right the wrong: He shall feed His flock like a shepherd.

And fold the lambs to His breast; In pastures of peace He'll lead them, And give to the weary rest.

There's a voice in the wilderness crying,

A call from the ways untrod:
Prepare in the desert a highway,
A highway for our God!
The valleys shall be exalted,
The lofty hills brought low;
Make straight all the crooked places,
Where the Lord our God may go!

Hymns: 1. "Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven" (the people standing)

2. "Come O Thou God of Grace" (the people seated)

Invocation The Lord's Prayer

lst. Voice: How desolate! How empty and cold and desolate! How utterly desolate in the cold darkness of the night is the world that is empty of God! How drear and dreadful: the city of God plays the harlot . . . the people of the empty world are rebellious sons; they are laden with sins; they are evildoers, corrupters, people without understanding . . . a bloody-handed generation, and unclean! (Isaiah 1)

*Exec. Dir. Council of Churches, St. Joseph, Mo.

Man alone is starkly alone! Amidst the stench of rottenness, cowed by shame, and terror, worn with pain, and torn in the struggle to survive, man all alone looks up! "Is this all that life is?" he asks, "Is this my only lot in life?" Pitifully, he stands there, but his very soul cries out for something, SOMETHING to give meaning to his work, to himself. He yearns with a throatache longing for something to fill his emptiness, to complete his incompleteness, . . . for something on which to stand, for something by which to live.

He looks at himself and mourns, "Woe is me! I am undone, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips! Unbearable is my misery! None does righteously. All is evil. Is there no goodness No justice? Is there no help? All that I do seems as nothing. I walk alone in darkness; how black is the night I live down in deep darkness. O, for a light! a light!

Hymn:-

Lift up our hearts, O King of kings,

To brighter hopes and kindlier things,

To visions of a larger good, And holier dreams of brotherhood.

Thy world is weary of its pain, Of selfish greed and fruitless gain, Of tarnished honor, falsely strong, And all its ancient deeds of wrong.

Almighty Father, who dost give The gift of life to all who live, Look down on all earth's sin and strife.

And lift us to a nobler life.

Amen.

Narrative-(1st. Voice):

Over the shadows of this toilsome living there occasionally comes a heaven-shine: a moment of greatness when one dares all for love's sake; a moment of beauty in the quick smile of a baby. And at such times man begins to dream. . .

Dreams are they-but they are

God's dreams!

Shall we decry them and scorn them?

That men shall love one another, That white shall call black man brother,

That greed shall pass from the market place,

That lust shall yield to love for the race,

That men shall meet with God face to face—

Dreams are they all,
But shall we despise them—
God's dreams!

Dreams are they—to become man's dreams!

Can we say nay as they claim us? That men shall cease from their hating.

That war shall soon be abating, That the glory of kings and lords shall pale,

That the pride of dominion and power shall fail,

That the love of humanity shall prevail—

Dreams are they all, But shall we despise them— God's dreams!¹

Perhaps our way is not God's way. Can we dream God's dreams with him? "Thy kingdom come," we have prayed this day, "thine is the power and the glory . . . Thy will be done." Is this just an idle dream, or can we affirm with the poet:

"These things shall be: a loftier race than e'er the world has known shall rise

With flame of freedom in their souls, and light of knowledge in their eyes."?

Hymn:-

These things shall be: a lofiter race

Than e'er the world hath known shall rise

With flame of freedom in their souls

And light of knowledge in their eyes.

They shall be gentle, brave, and strong

To spill no drop of blood, but dare All that may plant man's lordship firm

On earth, and fire, and sea, and air.

Nation with nation, land with land,
In-armed shall live as comrades



Free!

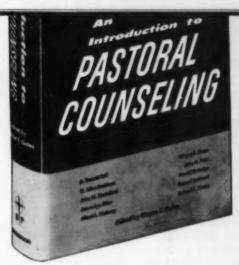
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free:

In every heart and brain shall throb The pulse of one fraternity.

New arts shall bloom of loftier mold,

And mightier music thrill the skies, And every life shall be a song, When all the earth is paradise.

(LIGHTS DOWN—SPOT ON PROPHET FIGURE WITH SCROLL) 2nd Voice: The prophet Isaiah dreamed of a time—in God's good time when things would be different because God would intervene in human affairs and make them different:

3rd Voice: It shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the house of the Lord shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and all the nations shall flow to it, and many peoples shall come, and say: "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us all his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

He shall judge between the nations, and shall decide for many peoples; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

(Isaiah 2:2-4)

There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. And his delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear, but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth. Righteousness shall be the girdle of his waist, and faithfulness the girdle of his loins.

2nd Voice: In extravagant poetic terms Isaiah pictures how different God's reign would be when . . .

3rd Voice: The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid, and the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. (Isaiah 11:1-9 RSV) . . .

A voice cries; "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken." (Isaiah 40:3-5 RSV).

Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, lift it up, fear not; say to the cities of Judah, "Behold your God!" Behold, the Lord God comes with might, and He will feed his flock like a shepherd, he will gather the lambs in his arms, he will carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young. (Isaiah 40:9-11)

Hymn:--

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"
(Quartet)
(START LIGHTS UP SLOWLY)

2nd Voice: And later Jeremiah anticipated how God would choose to claim the hearts of people in a kingdom of righteousness:

1st Voice: "Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, not like the covenant which I made with their fathers when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant which they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days says the Lord; I will put my law within them, and I will write it upon their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people." (Jeremiah 31:31-33 RSV)

2nd Voice: The prophets dreamed of the hope of the world—of God's kingdom of righteousness and peace—lo, 2700 years now gone. God spoke so long ago. Even then, man stricken and befuddled moaned, "But is this for me?" After the slow full turn of 27 centuries, the echoes of these great ones reverberate more distantly; the glitter of the brave dream fades; the tale is old. Even now we ask, "Can it really be?"

But men and women, children and youth have not forgotten how to dream. As clear as the call of the sea to ships, as strong as the urge to reach mountain heights, as sure as the seasons in their eternal concourse comes the word: "You are not alone. I am the Lord your God! And I will be with you wherever you are!

I will pour out my spirit on all flesh

Your sons and daughters shall prophesy

And your old men shall dream dreams

And your young men shall see visions! (Joel 2:28)

(LIGHTS UP TO HALF FULL HERE)
"Hozanna, Now Through Advent"
(Carolers Choir)
Unison Prayer of Confession

Let us pray:

ALMIGHTY GOD, OUR HEAV-ENLY FATHER, WHO DIDST CAUSE LIGHT TO SHINE OUT OF DARKNESS IN THE ADVENT OF OUR LORD IESUS CHRIST, TO TAKE AWAY THE SINS OF THE WORLD; WE HUMBLY CONFESS OUR TRANSGRES-SIONS AND IMPLORE THY FOR-GIVENESS. WE ARE ASHAMED OF THAT WITHIN US WHICH MAKETH NEITHER FOR GOOD TO OTHERS NOR FOR GROWTH IN GOODNESS IN OUR OWN LIVES. WE BESEECH THEE THAT THE SPIRIT OF CHRIST MAY BE BORN ANEW WITHIN US, AND THAT WE MAY GLORIFY HIS NATIVITY WITH HEARTS OF COMPASSION, DEEDS OF KINDLY SERVICE, AND THE SPIRIT OF GOOD WILL TO-WARD ALL MANKIND; THROUGH JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD. AMEN.

Words of Assurance

Anthem: "Father in Heaven, Whose Love Profound" (The Sanctuary Choir)

> (LIGHTS DOWN— SPOT ON CRECHE)

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1st Voice: It happened once! . . . 3rd Voice: It happened once! . . . 1st Voice: To meet man's need, . . . 3rd Voice: To meet man's need, . . . 1st Voice: God gave the Babe . . . 3rd Voice: God gave the Babe . . .

(turn to page 26)

Unto Us, A Saviour

John C. Updegraff*

There are several personalities who appear briefly in the drama surrounding the birth of Jesus and are never again mentioned in the scriptural accounts. What happened to them after the incidents in which they participated were over we have no way of knowing. However, I often find myself wondering about these obscure people—the shepherds, the wise men, the innkeeper, and others.

Today let us seek answers to a few questions about the keeper of the inn from which Mary and Joseph were turned away with the curt statement "There is no room for you here." What sort of man was this person? Whatever became of him? Did the fact that the Saviour was born on his property have any effect upon his life? We cannot know, of course. But let us, in phantasy, reconstruct the story of this man and see what could have taken place in his life.

The inn to which Mary and Joseph came that night was no different from those found in every village and hamlet in the land. It was crudely constructed and poorly furnished, but adequate to meet the demands of weary travelers in the rugged land we called home. The building surrounded an open courtyard where camels, horses, and other beasts of burden could be picketed. There was a stable at the rear where feed was kept, and where a few animals might find shelter.

To be an innkeeper a man had to be able to do all sorts of things. I was the manager of the inn. I had to oversee the care of the animals as well as supervise and sometimes prepare food for the travelers. Thus I was both herdsman and hotel keeper. All of these responsibilities tended to make me an irritable person, particularly when we were as busy as we were the night that little family knocked on the door and asked for housing. Soldiers had demanded, and received, the best places in the hotel.

^o Minister, First Christian Church, Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.

They were exacting in their needs and kept the serving maids, my wife, and me constantly busy. Therefore when the man and woman came to the door I was understandably gruff. Every corner of the inn was full. There were travelers sleeping on every bench and in every corner where a mat could be spread. I simply turned them away as I had done many others during the evening. However my kindly wife noted the condition of the woman and suggested that they find shelter in the large stable at the rear of the courtyard.

Somehow, in the hustle and bustle of that night, I kept seeing the winsome and lovely face of that young woman named Mary. She had a quiet manner about her and seemed eternally grateful for the suggestion that shelter could be found in a stable. She possessed an almost holy quietness that set her apart from others. As I thought about it during the night, I found myself reasoning, "It is simply because she is about to have a child. Most women are at their best when this happens."

However, that was a never-to-beforgotten night. What little sleep I could catch between the demands of my guests was disturbed by some unexplained singing out on the hillside. At the midnight hour I could hear lovely voices singing, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." I remember that I wondered who could be singing at such an hour. It was not long after this that some shepherds from the hill came demanding that they be permitted to see the newborn babe. This was how I learned that the woman had delivered. It was late the next day before my wife and I could stop by the stable to see the

The days and months that followed were busy and interesting. Joseph, husband of Mary, proved to be a fine man and an excellent carpenter. In appreciation for the rude shelter he repaired the corral fence, some furniture that drunken soldiers had broken, and a



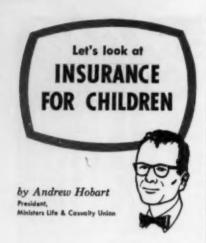
place in the roof I had been intending to fix for many months.

Then there was the day those impressive, rich travelers from the east came to visit the child. Their camels were of the finest breed, their robes were those of eastern royalty, and the gifts they brought to the little child were rich and fine. What a strange sight—these tall, important-looking men kneeling before a manger cradle, doing homage to a child with all the dignity and ceremony they might have displayed before a king.

Yes, during those months I learned to love this little family. They were kind and gentle folk. Mary had a winsomeness and loveliness about her that made all love her. I came under the spell of the child as well. He was a wonderful little one. All who came near Him seemed better for the experience. There was less quarreling and disputing in the inn than I could ever remember.

One night Joseph came to me in great agitation. "We must leave," he said. It had come to them in a dream that Herod was in search of the child and meant to slay him. I traded a fresh young donkey for Joseph's aging one. We provided them with water bags and food, and off they started for Egypt. This was the last I was to see of the little family that had become so dear to all of us. Never was I to forget the warmth of those little fingers grasping my wrist. The memory is far more precious than a band of pure gold that might cover the same part of my arm.

True to the dream of Joseph and Mary, Herod did send his soldiers. The horror of that day still makes Bethlehem folk shudder—soldiers going from house to house, with the blood of the innocent dripping from their short swords. My own grandchild was slain



First, of course, a father must insure himself adequately to protect his entire family. Insuring his children comes second. But many do both, with these reasons in mind for their children:

- ...Growing cash values influence a child toward good thrift habits.
- ... Helping with premiums introduces a child to responsibility and develops a proper sense of values.
- ... As a child matures he still pays the low rates set up in younger years—he is guaranteed a low monthly cost.
- ... If, in later years, an illness or injury leaves a child uninsurable, he enjoys continued protection from his policy taken out in childhood.
- ., If his father dies, a child whose contract contains a "Payor Benefit" pays no premiums until he is an adult.

Most companies offer many kinds of "Juvenile Insurance". Here at Ministers Life, for example, you may choose from the Heritage series of policies for ministers' children, including the Estate Starter which guarantees a child \$5,000 life insurance at age 21 and an Endowment-at-65 policy. We will be happy to send you detailed information on any of these . . . just drop us a card.



3100 west lake st. * minneapolis 16, minn.

that day.

What happened to me that night? I don't really know. But this I do know: While once I was a greedy, irascible person caring only for the profits my business would bring, now I was a person whose heart sang for joy at the thought of serving others. The travelers who had been only a source of money now became friends I welcomed into my inn.

I had never been a learned man but, like all Jews, had known the sayings of the great prophets and longed for the fulfillment of some of them in my own life. There was one out of Isaiah that I particularly treasured: "Therefore with joy shall ye draw water out of the well of salvation." This I had sought during my entire life. Now, because a child had smiled on me, from the wells of salvation I could draw an irrepressible joy that lifted me up on a high mountain and carried me over every depressing experience.

The death of my eldest son had been a blow from which I thought never to recover. Yet from one who had found comfort in nothing at all I had changed to one who could listen with new appreciation to the age old words of David:

"Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for thou art with me."

With these words I took on new strength and I became a new man in Christ. With fresh wonder I heard years later that this same child had said:

"Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me, . . . I go to prepare a place for you that where I am, there ye may be also."

Now I shared the ageless comfort of those who really knew and loved God.

Finally, although I had always felt unclean,—now as I let the wind blow through my graying beard a sense of cleanness purged my soul. This, because the warmth of a little child had cleansed my soul. Now I could sing with new meaning and new vigor the old hymn of our people:

"Who shall ascend unto the hill of the Lord, or

Who shall stand in His holy place? He that hath clean hands and a pure heart".

Now I stood in that holy place, confident that all uncleanness had been taken

away by the touch of that lovely Child.

An old inn keeper I am now—one who for a long time had been hated and loved by his clients, but now honored and respected by all—because of a Child who had been born in my courtyard. As I have told this story of how my life was changed, disbelief has appeared in the eyes of many. Yet, as I have talked to them about how the Christ could change their lives, they have changed.

Evil men, fast in the grip of their own misdeeds, have caught new hope and known the release of His forgiving love. Others, imprisoned by hidden fears have learned to trust in Him and to know the comradeship of One who does not ever leave them lonely. I have seen such men walk out of my Inn, if not with a song on their lips, surely with a song in their hearts. This the Christ child has done for me, for many others, and this he can do for you.

There you have the story of the inn keeper. Phantasy? Yes, it is that, but certainly not beyond the realm of probability for no one who has come under the influence of the Baby of Bethlehem is ever the same again. Once you have touched the radiance of his spirit you cannot be the same person.

Come, my friend, share the inexpressable joy of his presence; know the comfort that takes away emptiness; sense the cleanness of spirit that redemption through Jesus Christ brings. Let the light that is the light of Life shine in your hearts now and forever.



Holy Night

There is something warm that satisfies the soul

In the radiance of warm candlelight

Peace filtered through the windowpanes

Of a home on Christmas night. Bright hope flares up to stars that blaze above

The drifted white.

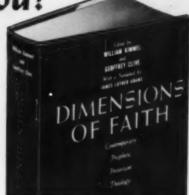
Warm heart-lift,
Pure holiness
In stars and endless space.
If we stand here still and long
We can learn the shepherd's
hope
And hear the angel's song.

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Design Creates Religious Atmosphere



Meditation Chapel at north end of Sacristy. Used for service preparation, consultation and daily worship.



Front view of the Alpine Lutheran Church, Rockford, III. Note window between doors for seasonal message or decorative interest.



Rear view, showing the stained glass window, which is floodlighted from the outside. The shape of the roof is designed to suggest praying hands.

C reating an atmosphere of prayer and worship in the design of church chancel components brought a special award of excellence in design for Allen, Patton & Bates, Rockford, Ill., architects.

The firm, architects for Alpine Lutheran Church, Rockford, was honored for its design at a recent Construction Industry Seminar sponsored by the Northern Illinois Chapter of the American Institute of Architects.

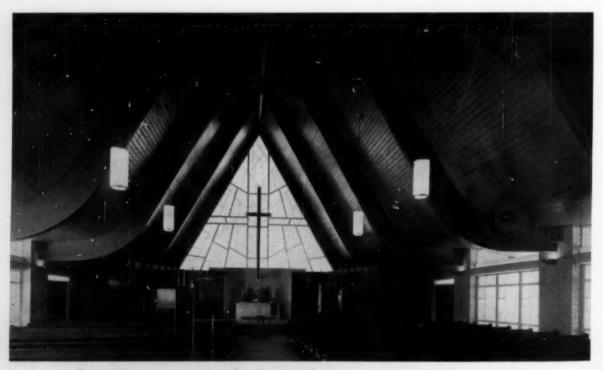
The award was for excellence in design of the chancel screen, communion rail and cross in the church, whose pastor, Clifton H. Kittelson, noted that

the design created an attitude of prayer.

Mr. Kittelson describes the designs singled out for the award of excellence in this fashion:

"Upon opening the doors of the sanctuary, one is immediately overtaken by the large 16-foot walnut wood cross that is trimmed in a delicate outline of aluminum, creating a slight halo about the cross. The cross is suspended in front of the large colored glass window, triangular in shape, symbolizing the Holy Trinity, borrowing the cool light of the north exposure through the warm

(continued on page 33)



The chancel screen, communion rail and cross can be seen in the background of this interior view.



The Altar, located beneath the walnut and aluminum cross and in front of the tile reredos wall. Appointments on the Altar, such as candelabra, book rack, symbols and altarcloth are handmade items. The top and front of the Altar are marble. Live plants are growing in stands back of the altar to form a permanent background for Altar decorative arrangements.



Lectern and clergy chair located in front of chancel screen of walnut and aluminum strips. By Woodcrafts, North Manchester, Indiana. Carpeting is carried onto base making the wood stand out in contrast.



Baptismal Font and section of communion rail located in front of risers to the Chancel. Metal grille provides decorative return air outlet.



daily devotional guide

37 Editions - 31 Languages

1908 Grand Avenue Nashville 5, Tenn.

"THY KINGDOM COME "

(continued from page 20)

1st Voice: . . . to testify, "Man is not alone!" . . .

3rd Voice: ... "Man is not alone!" ...

1st Voice: Emmanuel! . . .

3rd Voice: Emmanuel! . . .

1st Voice: God with us! . . .

3rd Voice: God with us!

THE EVENT

(SINGLE SPOT ON CRECHE)

The Shepherds' Story

2nd Voice: In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be enrolled. And all went to be enrolled, each to his own city. And Joseph went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be enrolled with Mary, his bethrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to be delivered. And she gave birth to her first-born son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. And in that region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. And the angel said to them, . . . "Be not afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all people; for to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a babe wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger."

"Gloria in Excelsis Deo" (Te Deum Choir) Adoration of the Shepherds

2nd Voice: When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, . . .

(SHEPHERDS START TOWARD MANGER)

"let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." And they went with haste, and found Mary and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they saw it they made known the saying which had been told them concerning this child; and all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. (Pause until shepherds all arrive at manger)

"Little Baby Jesus"-Bethlehem Choir Mary kept all these things, pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

MUSIC BRIDGES - "Love Divine" (SPOTLIGHT TO REMAIN ON CRECHE UNTIL BENEDICTION)

1st Voice: It will happen again . . .

3rd Voice: It will happen again . . .

1st Voice: It will happen again soon

3rd Voice: . . . soon now

1st Voice: The star swill shine . . .

3rd Voice: . . . shine . . .

1st Voice: and voices sing, "Glory to God in the highest" . . .

3rd Voice: . . . in the highest . . .

1st Voice: And feeble lips pick up the chant, for ages murmured carelessly, Both Voices: "Thy Kingdom come. Thy

will be done. Thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory."

Narrative:

The miracle of Bethlehem was not that man, who had long sought reunion with God, succeeded in his quest. It was rather that in Bethlehem the living God caught up with man, who had fled him in guilty panic down the centuries. The glory was that we were sought and found. The deep happiness which suffuses the gospel narratives of Jesus' birth and spreads over the world at this season leaps from the moment in history when man discovered that God was like that. He sought us before we turned to him. The prophets had tried to tell us this was true, but now we can no longer doubt the divine initiative. The reconciliation which began in Bethlehem was so earnestly desired by God that he sent his son to make it possible.

"Reconciliation (the breaking down of the wall of separation between man and God) begins at Bethlehem. Will it meet a response in our hearts to do its perfect work? We can no longer doubt that the Heavenly Father seeks his children in ways they

know and in ways which continue to surprise them. The joy of Bethlehem grows from year to year, when we appropriate it for ourselves and convey it to others. The heart of that happiness is that God is seeking us, that what he has done and is doing in Jesus Christ is to reach far beyond anything the scientists or the scholars or the statesmen can do, to bring us the ultimate joy and the final security, reconciliation with himself. To make this joy our own we affirm again: "God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself." . . . But2 . . .

Hazard is on the road to Bethlehem's manger;

If Love be born, our old gods are in danger;

We fear, as Herod did, the Patternchanger.

Music has dulled our words of adoration:

The means more than the end of celebration

Obsesses us; we shun a revelation.

Now, lest gay surface pleasure mask our treason

Toward Him who gave our true joy its true reason,

Let Christ and love reclaim the Christmas season!3

"Te Deum" (Te Deum Choir) (LIGHTS UP TO HALF)

A LITANY FOR ADVENT⁴

Glory to God in the highest.

AND ON EARTH PEACE, GOOD WILL TOWARD MEN.

O God, thou art our salvation: we will trust, and not be afraid. Thou art our strength and our song.

THEREFORE WITH IOY SHALL WE DRAW WATER OUT OF THE WELLS OF SALVATION.

We thank thee for the birth of Jesus, that thy Spirit was upon him, that he was anointed to preach good tidings to the poor, to proclaim release to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are

HELP US TO MAKE OUR PRESENT TIME THE ACCEPTABLE YEAR OF THE LORD.

O God, enable us, as we worship thee, to kindle with the joy of simple shepherds long ago at the thought of all that came to the world in the birth

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- It's whisper-quiet so quiet you'll wonder whether it's really working.

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- Its low overall height only 107/6" permits working beneath low furniture and fixtures.

FM-17 with solution tank

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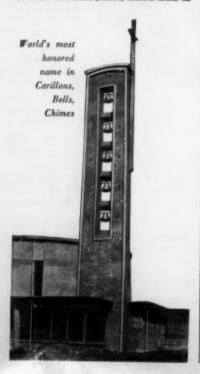
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of the child Jesus.

CAST OUT OUR SIN, AND ENTER IN; BE BORN IN US TODAY.

Help us, O God, in the light of the shining star to realize the wastes and desolations of the world, to feel the weight of the world's sorrow and need, to be made aware of the power of evil, to see what spiritual loss is caused by man's hatred and sins.

HELP US WITH THE SPIRIT OF JESUS TO BUILD THE OLD WASTES AND TO RAISE UP THE FORMER DESOLATIONS.

Forgive us, O God, for our weariness of heart through great conflict and exertion. Suffer us not to become creatures and nations of selfishness, of narrow, foolish pride; marred with hardness of heart, and weakened by fear and suspicion.

GRANT UNTO US THAT WE BEING DELIVERED OUT OF THE HAND OF OUR ENEMIES MAY SERVE THEE WITHOUT FEAR.

Over the face of the ancient earth, weary and torn with strife, the passing generations have come and are gone, and have not seen the triumph of good will among men; yet we give thanks for the unceasing renewal of life born to new hopes and strong to achieve new victories of good.

FOR UNTO US A CHILD IS BORN, UNTO US A SON IS GIVEN; AND THE GOVERNMENT SHALL BE UPON HIS SHOULDER.

In the light of the shining star that giveth happiness to little children and cheer to all, help us to renew our zeal for that good time when none shall be far off or forgotten, but shall live within the circle of the blessed life.

MAY THE DAY-SPRING FROM ON HIGH VISIT US, TO GIVE LIGHT TO THEM THAT SIT IN DARK-NESS, TO GUIDE OUR FEET INTO THE WAY OF PEACE.

We believe in Jesus Christ, God manifest in the flesh, our Teacher, Example, and Redeemer, the Saviour of the world.

WE BELIEVE IN THE KINGDOM OF GOD AS THE DIVINE RULE IN HUMAN SOCIETY; AND IN THE BROTHERHOOD OF MAN UNDER THE FATHERHOOD OF GOD. WE BELIEVE IN THE FINAL TRIUMPH OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, AND IN THE

LIFE EVERLASTING. AMEN.

Hymn:-

Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates, Behold, the King of Glory waits; The King of kings is drawing near; The Saviour of the world is here!

Fling wide the portals of your heart;

Make it a temple, set apart From earthly use for Heaven's employ,

Adorned with prayer, and love, and joy.

Redeemer, come, we open wide Our hearts to Thee; here, Lord, abide.

Thine inner presence let us feel; Thy grace and love in us reveal. Amen.

(LIGHTS FADE TO LOW)

Dedication

"O Come Little Children" (Four choirs)
Project gifts—During the singing of
"O Come Little Children" let each
child bring his Christmas offering
and lay it on the altar.

Benediction: "Nunc Dimittis" (Jr. High Choir)

Reprinted from "The Christian Century" 12/23/53
"Adapted from an Editorial, "The Christian Century" 12/22/54
"Reprinted from "The Christian Century" 12/17/52
The Methodist Book Co.

(end)

This Christmas Night

From every window comes
the glow
Of warm inviting light,
A cheery greeting of warm
love
On this Christmas Night.

From snowy streets the joyful sound Of happy carolers singing, Harmonize with golden tones Of church bells gladly ringing.

Every smiling, radiant face Seems full of inner light, With the blazing fire of love On this Christmas Night.

> Raymond Bottom Botkins, Ohio

At Close Of Day....

An inspiration for meditation

By Herbert E. Morris*



Bright Autumn leaves, the gold of chrysanthemums and the purple of asters draw the eye to the invitation from the Gospel of Mark. The soothing sound of falling water in the fountain blends with the organ music. A truly inspirational setting combining surcease to eye and ear.

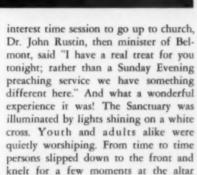
Illuminated by a down directed beam of light, the open Bible invites solution to the day's problems. The promise of the cross is accentuated by its flood lighted outline against the darkness of the background. Spatter sparkles, flecked on the floor and the base drapery, suggest the depth of stars.

The thrill of persons kneeling reverently at the altar rail is one of the great heritages of Methodism. Two years ago I flew with a group of our young people from New Jersey down to Nashville, Tennessee, to see Methodism in action. We spent most of our time at Belmont Methodist Church where the people introduced the youth to warm hospitality.

On Sunday evening when we left our

^o Minister, Centenary-Wilbur Methodist Church, Portland, Ore.





The floodlighted tower of the Centenary-Wilbur Methodist Church in Portland, Oregon inspires and invites the passer-by to enter and partake of the fellowship hour and to participate in the Glow Time meditation period.

My concern and excitement over the field trip and its busy agenda were drained from me, and I was filled with calm. I could almost hear the voice of Christ saying "My peace I leave with you, My peace I give unto you."

A few months ago when I had the privilege of beginning a Sunday Evening Program at Centenary-Wilbur Church I said at once, "Let's close the Program with Glow-time."

(continued on page 33)



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For Christmas Eve

Dramatizing the Nativity

Victor F. Scalise*

Living in a predominantly Roman Catholic community where the faithful go to midnight mass on Christmas Eve, we have found the dramatization of the Nativity an inspiring substitute and a joyous expression of the Protestant faith. Hundreds of people, men and women, young and old, come to be a part of the perennially fresh and wonderful unfolding miracle of the birth of the Christ child. High pageantry and meaningful drama, lofty music and colorful costumes, Christmas decorations wedded to the spoken word, help to engage the mind and heart of the faithful in adoration.

One single rehearsal for timing, proper grouping, spacing, and total effect is all that is needed. Time is of the essence, for the Christmas season makes enormous demands on people. A small committee working with the pastor takes care of publicity, props, costuming, and lights. Participants are selected a month ahead, and their names are listed on the program. The choir cooperates fully, as their part is not too complicated; it consists of familiar carols as the pageant unfolds.

The service starts at eleven o'clock on Christmas Eve. The late hour, the sense of expectancy, the colorful occasion, and the mystery of the event make the hour unforgettable. The Word once again becomes flesh.

SERVICE OF WORSHIP

Organ Prelude: "Shepherd's Song" Carols (choir and congregation):

"Hark, the Herald Angels Sing"
"The First Noel"

"Joy to the World"

Responsive Reading (selections from Isaiah 9, Psalm 72, Isaiah 62)

Prayer

Response

Offertory (The offering is dedicated to feeding the hungry people in the world through the surplus food

^oMinister, Calvary Baptist Church, Lowell, Massachusetts. plan.)
Doxology
Carols (choir):

"Lo, How a Rose Is Blooming"
"O Nightingale Awake"
"Winds Through Olive Trees"

DRAMATIZED STORY OF THE NATIVITY

I

Reader: Christmas is the most colorful and wonderful festival of the Christian church. It is the birthday of the Christ child. Through the birth of the Christ child God has added a new dimension to life. Human values and human relationships shine with glory. He has put down the mighty from their seats, and has exalted them of low degree.

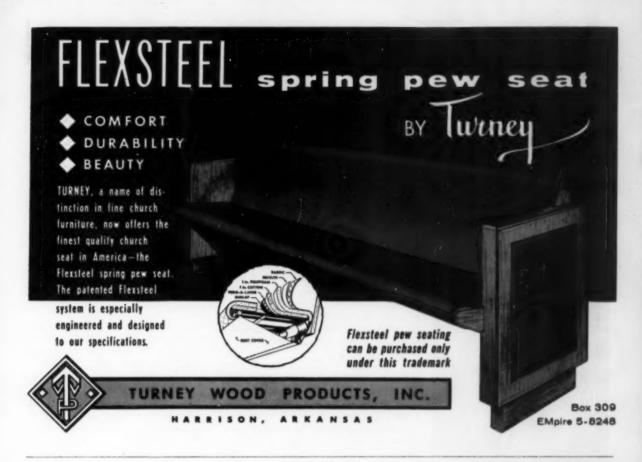
On Christmas Eve the whole world is hushed into silence. The star in the sky, the Babe in the manger, shepherds on the hill, wise men bringing gifts, and angels singing "Glory to God" lift the event to the level of spiritual happiness and unrestrained

At Christmas time God gave us himself in the mystery of the Incarnation. "The Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth."

Carol (choir): "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear"

Reader: The birth of the Christ child was the greatest turning point in the history of mankind. The past was prelude; with him the future would be as bright as the promises of God. God, however, had not left himself without a witness. From age to age he had spoken through the prophets. Isaiah, Micah, and Jeremiah are symbolic of that mighty host of impassioned men who spoke the will of God to mankind.

(Prophet Isaiah advances slowly from



back on center aisle and walks up to chancel with open scroll as if reading great prophecies. Reader continues.)

The prophet Isaiah saw the coming of the Messiah, who was to be called Wonderful, Counselor, the mighty God, the everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.

It was the great Isaiah who said that the spirit of the Lord was to rest upon the Messiah, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord.

He saw a time under the gracious rule of the Messiah when "the wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them."

Carol (choir): "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (one verse) (Prophets Micah and Jeremiah walk up to chancel with open scrolls.)

Reader: Micah, having looked into the unborn future, saw that "in the last days it shall come to pass, that the mountain of the house of the Lord shall be established in the top of the mountains, and it shall be exalted above the hills; and people shall flow unto it.

"And many nations shall come, and say, Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, . . . And he shall judge among many people, . . and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

Carol (choir): "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (one verse)

II

Reader: The prophetic conception of the coming Messiah was like a mighty painting by the great Rembrandt, full of deep shadows and golden light. He was to be wounded for our transgressions, bruised for our iniquities. The fifty-third chapter of Isaiah is like an unforgettable Sophoclean tragedy with cosmic meaning and importance. And then in the fulness of time the Christ child was born.

"And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria. And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; because he was of the house and lineage of David: To be taxed with Mary his epoused wife, being great with child."

Carol (choir): "Angels From the Realms of Glory" (one verse) (While choir sings, the inn keeper, his wife, and child lead Mary and Joseph to chancel—the manger—and then take their places below chancel with prophets, facing congregation. Mary will be seated; Joseph will stand behind, watching the tiny manger with the Babe on actual straw, light emanating from the Babe.)

Reader: "And so it was, that, while



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Overly

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Dept. H GREENSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn."

Carol (choir): "Angels From the Realms of Glory" (one verse) (During the singing of this hymn, twelve angels—junior or junior high girls, with proper angelic costumes come up to chancel slowly, two by two.

come up to chancel slowly, two by two, and range themselves round the Christ child.)

niid.)

Carol (choir): "Away in a Manger"

Ш

Reader: It was in a simple manger that the Christ child was born. Angels are symbolic of that order of life that reflects the love of God. While the people of Bethlehem slept, the love of God was brooding over the whole sleeping world.

(Angels here will act out in pantomime the meaning of hymn "O Little Town of Bethlehem" while organ plays the music. The action of folded wings and upraised wings should be properly synchronized with rocking of baby's cradle.)

Carol (choir): "Silent Night" (sung softly, then hummed)

IV

Reader: One of the great stories that gather around this impeccably beautiful and profoundly meaningful event is that of the simple shepherds. Heaven and earth make a symphony of unforgettable love. The highest and the simplest mingle and merge, expressing joy and wonder. For it is written:

"And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly

host praising God, and saying, (Here the choir bursts into song.)

"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."

Reader: "And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing that is come to pass, . . . And they came with haste, . . ."

(Five or six shepherds will have started from rear, and coming close to chancel, kneel on either side, then take their place with others on both sides of chancel without obstructing view of center.)

Carol (choir): While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks by Night"

V

Reader: There is mystery and glory surrounding the birth of the Christ child. It is the meeting of heaven and earth. It is the Word, the love of God, the reason of God, the compassion of God becoming visible.

"Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east of Jerusalem, Saying, Where is he that is born King...? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him."

Carol (choir): "We Three Kings of Orient Are"

(While choir sings, three impressive, colorful kings or wise men move forward from rear of sanctuary. Coming up to chancel, they place their gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh, bow in adoration and worship, then step down and take their place alongside others.)

Reader: "And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshiped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrth."

With the kings and the shepherds, countless millions came to the Christ child bringing gifts. Let us bring the gift of our own adoration while we sing "O Come, All Ye Faithful."

(While congregation and choir sing, pastor or reader will recess and pronounce the benediction from the rear.)

(end)

DESIGN CREATES RELIGIOUS ATMOSPHERE

(continued from page 24)

muted glass . .

"... one will be quite excited by the curved shaped communion rail where each station has a slight symbolism of the fish, the wheat and communion cup and various other reminders to commemorate the memories of the early Christian symbols of life . .

". . . these walnut walls (the chancel screen) are accented with aluminum strips running approximately nine feet from the floor and set two feet on center, tend to symbolize the followers of Christ .

These designs follow the effect created by the church structure itself. The building is drawn close to the ground by the sweeping lines of the inverted arch frame with the roof patterned after a stylized praying hands and arms symbol.

The church is located in a subdivision of ranch-type homes at the east edge of Rockford. The buildings was styled to match the type of home and the topography of the area. Alpine Lutheran Church, which seats 400 persons, is located on 51/2 acres of property, supplying land needs for off-street parking, future educational and recreational areas.

A young firm, Allen, Patton & Bates, was organized in the early '50's and has been active in the fields of religious, institutional, industrial and commercial design. Principals in the firm are Gordon E. Allen, A.I.A.; Don V. Patton, A.J.A.; and Kendall P. Bates, A.I.A.

STATISTICS

ALPINE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH, Rockford, Illinois

PASTOR-Clifton H. Kittelson

ARCHITECT-Allen, Patton & Bates, Rockford, Illinois

SEATING CAPACITY:

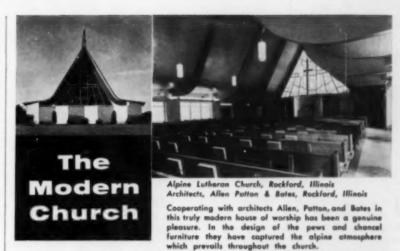
NAVE-352 BALCONY & CHOIR—60 FELLOWSHIP HALL—400 (Dining) SUNDAY SCHOOL—Education Wing has not as yet been built. Present facilities accommodate 280 of a total enrollment of 554.

STYLE-Contemporary Inverted Arch Frames Timber deck roof

MECHANICAL:

Dual-Fuel hot water heat Forced air heat in sanctuary only Provision for air conditioning

TOTAL SQUARE FEET TOTAL CUBIC FEET 14,100 243,414 COST/SQ. FT. \$14.60



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COST/CU. FT. \$ 0.85 \$205,844,25 TOTAL COST (does not include furnishings)

Pulpit Lectern

Communion Rail Symbols

. . . Woodcrafts, North Manchester, Indiana

Cross

. . . John Fridh & Sons, Rockford, Ill.

Altar

. . Rinehimer Millwork, Elgin, Ill.

Marble top & front

. . . Central Tile & Terrazzo, Rockford, Ill.

Ornament

. . . Metal Fabricators, Rockford, Ill.

Large Window

Design . . Allen, Patton & Bates, Rockford, Ill.

Metal Frame

. . . Metal Fabricators, Rockford, Ill.

Colored Glass . . . Cadillac Glass Co., Rockford, Ill.

Screen Wall

. . . Frank S. Pearce Co., Rockford, Ill. Candelabra

. . . Don V. Patton, A.I.A., Rockford, III.

Fabricator

. . . Architectural Iron, Rockford, Ill.

Offering Plates

Millwork

. . . Rinehimer Millwork, Elgin, Illinois

Aluminum

. . . Capron Metal Spinning Co., Capron, Ill.

Note: All the above items designed by Allen, Patton & Bates, Architects (end)

AT CLOSE OF DAY

(continued from page 29)

Dr. Fred J. Rosenberg, administrative assistant of the church began each week to plan a different worship center. Now Glow Time is a real part of Centenary-Wilbur. Each week the bulletin carries a different text for the evening message, a message not of words but of dramatic

After the lively fellowship supper and the interest groups, Sunday evening at Church is concluded with fifteen minutes of this quiet meditation. Through hidden speakers, inspiring organ music lightly fills the air, while we pray.

Persons with troubles are leaving them at "the church with the lighted spire" on the east side of downtown

Portland.

Emergent Love

Dr. and Mrs. A. Reas Anneberg*

esus taught, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment. And a second is like it, You shall love your neighbor as yourself." (Matthew 22:36-40) In studying what He meant by love and what our love of one another is, we discovered an understanding of love we would like to share.

"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth". In creating, God established ways of doing things which we call laws. This order was ordained for the natural progression of his creation in time and space. This first account of creation in the Bible, the first thirty verses of Genesis, recognised this. One of these mechanisms of creation is the combination of two or more things under the right conditions to form a new entity which may possess none of the characteristics of the component parts but which is dependent upon those parts for its existence and its new



set of properties and characteristics. The combination is not a simple fusion or addition but something more, an integration. In the synthesis of water from oxygen and hydrogen, the final product, water, resembles neither of its component elements in physical properties or uses. Because of this mechanism of emergence, there has been a progressive development of God's creation. In the formation of matter, electrons and protons united in various numbers and combinations to form atoms. These combined in various proportions and unions to form molecules. Groups of molecules were formed, and as they became more complex, compounds developed. As each new level of synthesis was reached, new entities with new properties appeared, making new syntheses possible, but only when conditions were right and always depending on past consummation. A series of compounds developed which are called organic, and from these very complex substances evolved and were brought together under the right conditions to produce the marvel of life. Among the new properties which characterize life are reproduction, recreation, growth, and adaptation to a constantly changing and evolving world.

Life progressed through many stages

of development from one-celled organisms and then to complex structures of many specialized parts. Life then became the result of the harmonious interaction of integrated mutually dependent parts. As animals became more highly developed they could function only when there was a specialized structure which functioned to co-ordinate, integrate, and protect the whole. As a result of this need, the nervous system developed. As this guiding system evolved, senses for gathering information regarding the physical environment around and within the organism developed. Correlation centers were formed to affect adaptive reactions (or desires) and these were carried out through motor areas to the musculature to implement action. From these correlation or association areas a further superlative step was made, the development and emergence of mind.

The mind then underwent its own progressive development in many species from consciousness of self, to memory, to discrimination, to language, to ideas. Because one of its chief original purposes was protection, one of the mind's components is emotion-to afford the organism the urge to act-and one is intellect-to afford the selective choice of acts. A proper balance between intelligence and emotion is most essential, but both are necessary. The mind operates by the use of organized reflexes, some simple or subconscious, and some complex or conscious. In the complex type some are "chain reflexes" or instinctive and some are learned. It is in this field of learned reflexes that man far surpasses animals. But he is like them in that each learned reflex is accompanied by some emotional reflex, which he recognizes as pleasant, neutral, or unpleasant, and which affects both his physical and mental state. These emotions tend to form patterns and become fixed. The importance of early training in emotional response and control as well as in the use of the intellect

SI

The concept for this essay was formulated some years ago when we were in college. We were en-rolled in different schools and carried on our courtship by cor-respondence. Some of the sentences are almost verbatim from our letters to one another. The first part, up to that portion deal-ing with the emergence of love, was written while in college. After twenty-seven years of happy mar-ried life, the death of an only son and the marriage of the older of our two daughters, we felt we had enough experience to finish the section on human love and write the last section on God Love.

We have written this, not as authorities but in a humble attampt to relate our obvious bio-logical background and basis with the strictly human qualities, and express it in terms of modern lanexpress it in terms of modern ian-guage and ideas. The male mem-ber of our team is a physician, the female member has had experience as teacher and social worker. We are both elders of our local Pres-byterian Church.

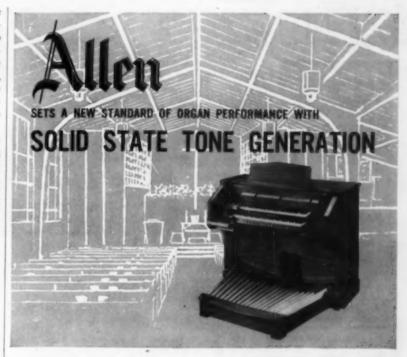
The Authors.

is obvious. But man differs from the lower animals in having a greater emotional control when he learns how to use it, a greater intelligence and intellectural curiosity, a language, and the possession of a well co-ordinated hand, with all of which he can invent and use tools, and a soul. The use of the intellect to make and use tools indicates the importance of the idea type of thinking. The idea may be considered to be a mirror or image type of thinking wherein a pattern for something exists in the mind before it does in reality, without any immediate external stimulus to its formation. As a result of imagination, the mind has the power to create and initiate new forms and actions. With the development of the idea in man, and with the invention of language and writing so that one mind could communicate with another, a new level of evolution was reached.

Life was created only after organic matter reached a certain degree of complexity, the intellect was created only after the body had attained a degree of development which required an intricate and effective governing system, and the newest level of evolution was created only after the intellect could more clearly appreciate its relations with others of its kind and its place in the scheme of things, and when its complexity demanded a guiding control. This newest level of evolution was truly epoch-making for it involved the uniting of non-physical but living entities -minds-into an emergent one, Love.

LOVE

Love is all inclusive and depends on the fullest development of all preceding stages for its best growth and development. Love is not only a desire for an adjustment of differences and an agreement of opinions, but an actual willingness to make the personal sacrifices necessary to the accomplishment of it, so that there is a blending of the best of the individuals into one new entity -Love. With this understanding, the component minds see one vision, feel one happiness or sorrow, and pool their energies to attain one goal. Love, being a part of life, is creative, dynamic, adaptable and growing. As the partners of love grow and develop, the love grows. Love displaces the crippling or destructive emotions such as a feeling of rejection, loneliness, hostility, anger, guilt, and fear. In love there is no fear, for fear is replaced by faith, faith in the one loved and in the new entity, Love.



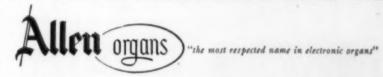
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This faith leads each of those in the integration of love to do for the other those things which please and are a help to the other, and not do those things which will harm the Love and the one loved. There is no retaliation, no "getting ahead" of or subordination of the other, and as a result no guilt or remorse or frustration in relations within the partnership. Love leads one to serve and help the partner in, all ways, to forget self in working for the common good, to follow ones desires only when it has been agreed that they are for the good of both. All of the emotional qualities

of love combine to arouse gratitude in those in love, gratitude for the loved one and for learning what love is. This attitude of gratitude further augments the rapport and understanding of the minds which form the integration of Love. Because love is a part of life, love must be nurtured and cultivated for its greatest development and flowering: All the effort and self-sacrifice necessary by each of the members of the union is worth the results in the greater development of the love and all its benefits and satisfactions to its component partners.

(turn to page 46)





"Sketches Submitted Immediately for Approval"





Christmas Eve Communion

By Donald J. Maccallum

What strange paradox is this That we should lay a solemn table On a joyous night?

What odd perversity summons us To show forth in bread and wine The death of him whose birth This eve commemorates?

For this is what we do this Christmas

Eat of the bread that is his broken body, Drink of the cup that brims of blood Poured out in sacrifice.

Must we remember pain in time of joy? Must we recall the infamy of man When angels sing the wondrous love of God?

Must there be this solemn, tearful pause As we approach the happiness of Christmas Day?

Would it not be better if we sang
The promises of "peace on earth,"
And gently drew a kindly shade
Across the future of the new-born child
Concealing, for the moment, the end
As we rejoice at the beginning of his
life?

But think why such a glorious celebration—

Tinseled trees, warmly glowing little lights,

Gaily ribboned gift sand cheerful carols Drifting on the wintry air— Think why such a joyous celebration Marks the birth of but a humble babe To humble parents in a time long gone

And in a distant corner of the earth

Where shepherds watched their flocks And wearied travellers took their welcome rest.

Who is this child whose natal day Brings joy and peace to humankind And banishes the fears and cares of life And causes us to sing his praise And worship God above?

He is Christ the Lord, you say, The King of Kings! The Son of God! Saviour of men! The Word divine made flesh!

All that, as we believe, is true.

The Son of God, the Word made flesh!

So men have thought—and on it staked their lives—

Who knew him when he walked the Galilean shore

And listened to his words and heard him pray, "Our Father . . ."

The Son of God! The Word made flesh! So men have still believed

Who knew him not in flesh to flesh encounter

But who know his presence in the church,

In other lives and inwardly, where God Reveals his ways and truth to men.

And so we still proclaim this holy child The Lord of earth and skies

Enthroned beside the Father in the heavens

And in the hearts of men.

But why? Because of pious legend Lending glory to a birth that must have passed unnoticed

When men were busy with their own affairs.

Obeying Caesar's word and grumbling That rooms were scarce and prices high?

Is he the Christ because a shining star Glistened above the place where he was born?

Is he the Lord because those oriental kings

Brought gold and frankincense and myrrh to him?

Is he God's Son because some shepherds Heard celestial songs while watching sheep?

No! These tales were told long after the event

To show in retrospect the meaning, later seen.

Of that divine enfleshment We observe on Christmas Day.

Men knew him not as Lord of Lords and King of Kings,

They saw him not as Saviour of the World.

Until he climbed the weary hill Whereon three crosses were to be raised UD

And from a borrowed, rock-hewn tomb Was called from death to life again, The first-born of the new creation, Rescued by the hand of the Most High And vindicated by the God In whom he placed his trust.

Then, and not till then, did faithful eyes Perceive the meaning of that lonely, tragic life

And see in him for whom they had but pity

The splendor of God's truth And the wonder of the destiny

That God, through him, would give to men.

Then, looking back through years obscured by time,

They understood what happened Christmas night.

God came to earth in Mary's little child! And all of human life was changed!

So when we come to sit about this table To eat the broken body of the Lord And drink the cup,

The covenant sealed in blood of our redemption.

We do but testify to why,

In Mary's child, we see the Son of God, In Joseph's son, the Savior of the World.

No paradox is this That on a joyous night we gather in a

solemn mood. Our joy is the fruition of his pain, Our happiness the blooming of his The Savior of the World.

Our hope the consummation of his

In symbol ancient, then, of bread and

We do show forth that death by which we gain our life.

That resurrection from the dead by which we see

That unto Jewish maid was born no common child

But him who is the Lord's anointed, The Word of God made flesh, The King of Kings and Lord of Lords, (end)

THREE SINS

Dear God, we pray forgiveness for The sins we did commit

Throughout this day and for the deeds

Of good we did omit.

Please keep our hearts from secret sins.

Those faults we do not see,

That, hidden, grow and keep our souls

From thine eternity.

Ona Roberts Wright Gainesville, Texas



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A Sermon for Epiphany

Three Gifts

Louis E. Campbell*

Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh.—Matthew 2:11b

Contrary to a popular motion, we do not know how many wise men went to Bethlehem; but we do know the three kinds of gifts which they brought. No doubt people jumped to the conclusion that one wise man brought gold; another, frankincense; and still another, myrth. But this is pure speculation. There is no New Testament evidence to support the idea. The Western church has tended to follow the tradition that there were three wise men; the Eastern church has held the number to be twelve or thirteen.

The fact is that we cannot be sure of the number of the wise men, nor the country from which they came, nor their status in their own society. The tradition that they were kings. ("We Three Kings of Orient Are") dates from the fifth or sixth century. From the story in Matthew we may safely infer only that they were men of wealth, that they came from somewhere east of the Holy Land, that they were interested in religion and astrology, and that they brought three kinds of gifts: gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

We may safely assume, I believe, that their gifts served one important practical purpose. They enabled Joseph and Mary to pay the expenses of their flight into Egypt as they fled with their child from the envious wrath of King Herod. The peasant carpenter from Nazareth could hardly have underwritten the cost of that trip and that sojourn in a foreign land without some kind of special assistance. In those days there was no United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration for the displaced persons of the Middle East. In the providence of God it was the liberality of the wise men which provided for the material welfare of the Holy Family as

^oMinister, First Presbyterian Church, Delaware, Ohio.



they traveled the refuge road into the land of the Nile.

What do the three gifts of the wise men represent? Since we have no record of the thoughts of the wise men, we do not know how they regarded their gifts. But the Christian imagination, working with the rich materials of gold and frankincense and myrrh, has developed a structure of symbolism. Each gift represents something of high value in the Christian interpretation of life.

1

The gift of gold represents the royalty of Christ. It stands for the fact that Jesus Christ is the real king of the souls of men, and that in the fulness of the divine purpose "the kingdoms of this world shall become the kingdom of our God and of his Christ."

In what sense is Jesus Christ a king? Not from the standpoint of the trappings of royalty. He does not try to impress the world with summer and and winter palaces, with elaborate and stately ceremonial, with a large standing army or navy or air force. He is no monarch after the pattern of Alexander, Caesar, or Napoleon. Like King Alfred the Great, who put on the humblest garb and visited the homes of his poorest subjects without revealing his identity, Jesus Christ the king often travels incognito. He is certainly the

most unconventional king in the annals of the human race.

The kingdoms of the world go
by
In the purple and in gold;
They rise, they flourish and
they die
And all their tale is told.
One kingdom only is divine,
One banner triumphs still;
Its king a servant, and its sign
A cross upon a hill.

The focal point of his kingship is his authority. He understands life. He understands the principles on which the good life can be lived. He points to the pathway of love-love of God and love of man-and says to each one of us, "This is the only way to live." If we try to spurn his wisdom and his authority, we shall discover, soon or late, how foolish we have been. We do not break the laws of his kingdom; we only break ourselves. And so, whether our response to him is Yes or No, we confirm his authority. All of human history, and every man's individual life, tell this truth over and over again.

Born a king on Bethlehem's plain,
Gold I bring to crown Him again;
King forever, ceasing never
Over us all to reign.

11

The gift of frankincense represents the deity of Christ. He is more than man; he is the God-man. "The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth; we have beheld his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father." (John 1:14)

The Christian gospel cannot compromise at this point. Either Jesus Christ is in a class by himself or he is one among many. The issue before us is whether we shall insist upon his uniqueness or whether we shall allow him to take his place in a kind of pantheon, with Buddha, Confucius, and other spiritual guides of mankind. Many, many people of our time, including some very eminent thinkers, are in favor of combining the highest insights of the great historic religions of mankind into a kind of higher synthesis. If the Christian church agrees to this rewriting of the gospel, we shall be changing the "old, old story" into something new and different. What we shall have, when we get through with this process, is something much nearer to historic Hinduism than historic Christianity.

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favor of this dilution of the faith of our fathers is the appeal for toleration. Let us give and take; let us live and let live. Let us do anything which will promote the spirit of brotherhood and good will among the peoples of the modern world. Let us adjust our religion to this necessiry. If the claim of the church that Jesus Christ is the unique Son of God and the only Savior of the world stands in the way of this homogenized religion. then we must give up this treasure of our Christian heritage. If we consent to this, we are really saving that the little town of Bethlehem was the scene of the greatest illusion of all time.

The call of the Bible and the call of the church is a summons to occupy the heights of Christian affirmation, and to hold them. It is a challenge to say, "Here I stand; I can do no other." To the end of time we must proclaim to all nations that the Child of Bethlehem is the Redeemer of the world. Only in his salvation do we find the way out, and the way up. In a true scale of values his star will always be higher than the most audacious satellite.

Frankincense to offer have I; Incense owns a deity nigh; Prayer and praising, all men raising, Worship Him, God on high.

Ш

The gift of myrrh represents the healing power of Christ. Myrrh is a gum resin from a shrubby tree which grows on the Arabian peninsula. From most ancient times it was known and appreciated for its medicinal properties. It is astringent, stimulant, and antiseptic.

Although the healing power of Christ has certain physical implications, I wish to center attention upon his power to restore the soul. This is the vital issue of our time. Professor Arthur Schlesinger, Jr., has recently written that "man, in the middle of the twentieth century, stands baffled and unhappy amid the wreck of splendid dreams." On most of the road which we have traveled in our generation we see starkly confronting us a disturbing sign, "Dead End."

There is one highway that is still open. It is the way of Christ. He calls to each one of us to receive him as King and Savior, and then to discover as we walk the road of spiritual adventure with him that he can bless soul with joy and hope and peace.

In the story of Zacchaeus we read

that after Zacchaeus had discovered the highway of life in the fellowship of Jesus, the Master said to him, "This day is salvation come to this house." But in one of the earliest translations of the New Testament into English, prior to the King James, the words of Jesus are rendered in this way: "This day is health come to this house." Salvation is good health of the soul; it is wholeness; it is spiritual soundness; it is reality. And nothing can destroy this, not even the mighty incident that we call death.

These, then, are the symbolic meanings of the three gifts of the wise men: The message of the gold is the royalty of Christ; of the frankincense, his divinity; of the myrrh, his healing power. Is not this the good news?

(end)



QUESTION

Who can hear the strains of angel song by launching pads where roaring missiles rise, or find an ancient star where light years throng, tracing eternity in deepening skies?

What Magi in this supersonic hour will kneel before the truth in cradled straw, or shall the knowledge of a greater power fill only the shepherd heart with trembling awe?

> Katherine L. Ramsdell Tempe, Arizona

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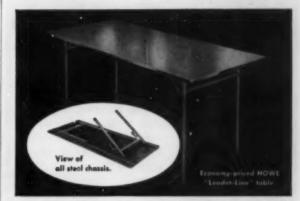
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Youth Ushers--Why Not?

Clifford Thomas*

Some time ago Graham Memorial Church, Coronado, inaugurated a program which has met with complete success.

The church officers and Sunday school staff were much concerned over the fact that, through lack of opportunity, the youth of the senior classes seldom entered into church activities and knew little about church functions. In many cases the students drifted away altogether.

In seeking to solve this problem, the church officers conceived the idea of using youth ushers in both of the morning services. It was hoped that the youths' interest would be aroused through active participation in the worship service.

°Graham Memorial Church, Coronado, Calif.

The head adult usher contacted the members of the senior classes and presented the idea to them. They received it with enthusiasm and wholehearted response. A combination roster-chart was immediately compiled to record names and to insert the date each youth served.

Before putting this project into effect, however, a period of training was arranged under the tutelage of the head usher, who explained the correct way to seat people, the proper procedure for taking the offering, and the necessity of being prepared for any emergency.

Care was taken to explain the spiritual significance of this office. The young men were advised not to look upon this duty as just a job to be done, but rather as a Christian service qualified by reverence and dignity. A captain and a co-captain were chosen. Their duties were to check each Saturday to see that the ushers assigned by the senior usher were available for the next day, and if not, to arrange a substitute.

Duty Carts and they

The value of this project became apparent on the Sunday of its inception. All of the youths performed admirably.

Periodically the senior usher arranges a beach party for the group. This not only helps them to become better acquainted but engenders a team spirit when they serve as ushers.

Youths who have served one year without missing an assignment are presented with a pin in recognition of their loyalty. When six of the youths eventually qualified for this honor, Bill Wade, quarterback for the Los Angeles Rams, made the presentation.

Also noteworthy is the fact that the parents of some of the youths attend church service more regularly, since they are proud to see their sons serving as ushers.

These youths have proved themselves worthy of responsibility, and great strides have been made in their development as useful Christian workers.

(end)

Joy In Christmas

S. L. Morgan, Sr.*

I always look forward to Christmas with a thrill of delight, and never more than this year, more so surely than when I was a child. In my 90th year, my concept of its meaning is so much nobler and richer and fuller than it can be to the child.

Many like myself will hail it as a respite from the oppressive fears that have gripped us in one of the most troubled years in history. Eagerly we shall listen at Christmas to the angel song above Bethlehem, "Peace, good will", and breathe a silent prayer, "God grant it!"

A Time to Repay Kindness

Now for some years many papers have carried each Christmas an article from me on how I find joy in Christmas. Again I suggest how everyone may find joy at Christmas:

1. Cementing old friendships and making new ones. More and more each year my favorite hobby is friendships. And more and more my favorite poem becomes, "I live for those who love me." Often my most delightful hour of the day is when I awake and let my mind dwell on the many hundreds of people in the churches and communities I've served in 50 years, who are still dear to me—and will be my joy in heaven.

And for years Christmas has been the special time to cement more firmly many of such friendships. And mainly, by a tiny note on a plain postal card. Postals have been my hobby, each with a tiny personal love-note on it. Three minutes and three cents, and the wonderful messenger of love has gone. It beats by far the costly card with a poem and a name signed—maybe printed! I know by much experience. Now and then one says, "We've kept a file for years of your Christmas notes. Now and then we take them out and read them, and they give us a boost."

Even a beautiful card and a poem and only a name, leaves me cold,—even



sad: "If only he had said three words: I love you!" Others tell me they feel as I do. Of course. I plead for personal love messages, if only on postal cards. Thus I'm sure I've held hundreds of friendships intact for years. It pays; it is my best investment.

By the same technique I've won numerous new friends. A dozen years ago a scholarly professor in a Michigan seminary read in his church paper my article "Kindness by Mail", in which I urged the use of postals for messages of comfort and encouragement. He wrote me, "I used your article before my class of preachers, urging them to make much of kindness by mail." He became my fast friend until his death three years ago. Across the land I have many friends won by postals!

Writing plain thank-you notes.
 There will be an inner circle who must have more than plain postals: near relatives and a few beloved friends—only letters for them.

That early teacher, now 94, who showed me the beauty of goodness and religion, more than 75 years ago. Mind and heart still alert, she wrote me a scrawling note lately in her 95th year—from Oklahoma.

Kind doctors who have done much for me and my dearest.

Leaders of child groups who during a trying year came in with sunshine for two old people—that's such a grateful act.

Half-a-dozen wonderful friends-bymail; I never saw them, but their letters enriched my life for years; then the letters ceased—they had gone to heaven; I'd like to write them my thanks—but maybe God has some way to pass to them my Christmas "Thank you!' I wonder.

3. Christmas ministry to broken bearts. I'll pause at Christmas to think deeply on what God and friends did for me in my great sorrow. And my heart will overflow in thanks. First to God; he enabled me to crown the year's crushing sorrow with thanksgiving. My home broken and my soul-companion of nearly fifty years went away to the hospital, never to return. Then in much prayer came a burst of thanksgiving: God and our Christian society had provided for her the expert care I could not give her; thanksgiving, after all, is the proper emotion! And great friends came in, singly and in groups; and with the know-how of comfort. They knew because they had suffered, knew how to help me talk out and weep out my grief and find healing in it! And so my dominant emotion at Christmas will be thanksgiving-to God and those whom he has taught. And so Christmas becomes a time of thanksgiving! And for finding others to comfort as friends have comforted me.

4. Christmas thanks to great souls who have inspired me. I shall write special thanks to certain great souls who have shown me how to smile

(turn to page 46)

*Baptist Minister, Wake Forest, N. C.

Audio Visuals For Christmas

FROM THE BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AND PUBLICATION OF THE EVANGELICAL AND REFORMED CHURCHES:

The following four filmstrips were produced to provide practical visual instruction which would meet the needs of local churches. With few exceptions, they consist of artists' sketches reproduced in color.

PLAYING IT SQUARE IN THE FAMILY. Eighty-five frames. Script by Robert E. Koenig; art by Jerry Rosenfeld. Price, including the script and instructions for graded use, \$5.50.

This strip is concerned with the troubles of a modern family and their attempt to bring the Christian spirit into their own home. The various members, parents and children, were pulled in different ways, and apparently there was little family unity. In the crisis they worked out their problem to mutual satisfaction. The method of presentation is by cartoons in color. It has a humorous aspect and will be enjoyed by every member of the family, young or old.

ISAIAH SEES THE LORD. Forty-five frames. Script by Carolyn E. Goddard; photography by Ronald Binks; introductory paintings by Oliver Grimley. Price, which includes the script with instructions for its use, \$5.50.

This filmstrip is based on the Bible story of Isaiah. It is divided into four parts. The first part is introduced by a painting which shows Isaiah at the gate of the temple; the second introductory frame shows him in the temple; the third painting shows the temple filled with the smoke of incense; the fourth introduction shows Isaiah leaving the temple.

Following the introductory frames, photographs are used to tell the story. The progression reveals how the Christian church is able to supply the same spiritual impulse which Isaiah found in the temple. The photographs include scenes of the church in action, hills, nature, and other subjects. The photography is splendid. It is a good introduc-



tion to the practice of worship for all ages.

NANCY HAS A CATHOLIC FRIEND. Thirty-nine frames. Script by Laura Van Lissel; art by Margaret Ayer and Harold J. Kihl. Price, which includes the script with instructions for use, \$5.50.

This filmstrip is directed toward children in the primary and junior grades who have made a discovery that some of their best friends go to churches quite different from theirs. It seeks to aid parents and others who wish to have an explanation of the difference in attitude between the Protestant and the Catholic worshipers. For instance, Nancy went to the Catholic church with her friend Mary when Mary was confirmed. She invited Mary to come to see her church, only to be told that the priest would not permit it. Through dialogue and picture, cleverly presented, Nancy learns much about historic Protestantism, and at the same time she keeps her friendship with Mary. This is a very valuable filmstrip for our churches of today where this question is always coming to attention.

SONS AND HEIRS. Seventy-seven frames. Script by John Brush and Robert E. Koenig; art by John Steiger. Price, which includes the script with instructions for use, \$5.50.

This film deals with the problem of the delinquent youth. Eric Beck had lost his father by death. Living in an impoverished home, he sought companionship and joined a gang of rough boys. Detected and arrested in a holdup, he was fined. The minister of the Protestant church paid the fine. Most of the boys in the gang were Catholics, and Eric sought the help of Father Kelly, who was a favorite of the boys. Snubbed by some women in his own church, he felt he should go to Father Kelly's church. A teen-age neighbor girl took compassion on him and urged him to come to the youth fellowship. Through that organization, and with the advice of his own minister, he learned that he could be both an heir and a son of God without going through the Roman Catholic confessional.

The best lesson to be derived from this film is that a youth organization can truly be an agent of redemption.

FROM DOT RECORDS:

WEDDING CHIMES, CHIMES OF FAITH, BALLAD FOR AMERICANS. Dor Records, Hollywood, California.

Dr. Charles S. Kendall, minister of the First Methodist Church, Hollywood, California, is the master mind behind Dot records. In an earlier pastorate Dr. Kendall was looking for suitable recordings for his own work. His interest in them led him to experiment with pressing his own records. The results were so pleasing that when he moved to his present parish he continued this hobby, ably assisted by Dr. Norman S. Wright, the organist of the church. Some of the records bear the imprint of Paramount Pictures, which would indicate that they are available in the many music stores across the country. They may also be secured from Dr. Kendall's own organization, which he calls Chimes, at 1818 Outpost, Hollywood 28, California. All are twelve-inch records with selections on both sides. The retail price is \$3.95 for monophonic records and \$4.95 for stereo recordings. In an advertisement which has appeared in Church Management. Dr. Kendall has offered to give

the fourth record free with each order for three. All records are 33 1/3 rpm.

Wedding Chimes offers the work of Dr. Wright on the four-manual Casavent organ of the First Methodist Church of Hollywood while Dr. Kendall plays the Vibracord to supply the harmony and solo notes. On one side we find "Bridal Chorus From Lohengrin," "O Promise Me," "I Love You Truly," "The Lord's Prayer," and "Mendelssohn's Wedding March." On the back is "Clair de Lune," "Wedding Prayer," and "Liebestraum."

Chimes of Praise is Dr. Kendall's record. He plays the chimes and Vibracord on two electric keyboards. The chimes provide the melody, and the Vibracord supplies the rich harmonic background. The front side of the record gives a recording of twenty traditional hymns of the church; the reverse side has about the same number of gospel songs. This record is especially suitable for use through a tower system.

Ballad for Americans. This ballad is the work of John Latouche and Earl Robinson. The artists of the production are Dr. Wright, at the organ; the sanctuary choir of the First Methodist Church, Hollywood; and Hunter Hancock of the choir as the soloist. The reverse side offers "Give Me Your Tired, Your Poor," "No Man Is an Island," and "Good Night, America."

The clarity of reproduction in these records is magnificent, and the reader may buy Dot records with assurance that they are of the highest quality.

FROM SOCIETY FOR VISUAL EDUCATION:

CHRISTMAS IN FOLK MUSIC. Fortynine frames. Author, Darlene Rhodus; illustrator, Janet Smalley; narrator, Maurice D. Copeland; organist, Venida

CHRISTMAS IN SACRED MUSIC. Forty-six frames. Author, Richard R. Dolezal; illustrator, Harry J. Blumenfeld; narrator, Maurice D. Copeland; organist, Venida Jones.

These two filmstrips, with one twelve-inch record which serves the folk music on one side and sacred music on the other, top all filmstrips and recordings of music in the series which we have reviewed.

The art work is good, the colors are splendid, and the music is of commanding quality. The author of the program of folk music starts off by stating that some of our Christmas customs antedate





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Dept. D, 2124 S. Calhoun Ft. Wayne, Indiana Phone: Harrison 2228 the Christian era. These, of course, include the yule log, the ivy and holly, and the Christmas tree. The various songs sung by an excellent choir are "Deck the Hall With Boughs of Holly," "The Holly and the Ivy," "Here We Come a-Wassailing," "God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen," and "O Christmas Tree."

Christmas in Sacred Music is more conventional in the titles selected for presentation, but again the art work and the music can be commended highly. If your projector is one which automatically moves the frames by the grooves in the record, there is great delight in settling back for a half hour with these two filmstrips. The hymns presented and sung in the program include "Angels We Have Heard on High," "Hark, the Herald Angels Sing," "O Little Town of Bethlehem," "We Three Kings of Orient Are," and "Joy to the World," old but ever new and very enjoyable in these settings.

THANKSGIVING:

A PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING, written by Richard R. Dolezel, senior editor, Society for Visual Education. This filmstrip brings together many reasons for giving thanks. There is no recording; the descriptive lines appear under the colored pictures made from actual photographs. Hills, valleys, churches, homes, and family situations are shown, with a few lines of copy for each scene.

It seems suitable for all ages. Children of the primary years can profit by the presentation, and adults as well will appreciate the sense of devotion in the pictures with their few lines. There are thirty-two frames. The filmstrip sells for \$3.00.

FOR CHILDREN:

CHRISTMAS GIFTS OF LOVE. Fortyone frames. Author, Melba F. Petersen; illustrator, Matilda Breuer; narrator, Mary Skol; organist, Venida Jones. THANKSGIVING BLESSINGS TO SHARE. Forty-one frames. Author, Melba F. Petersen; illustrator, James A. Dunnington; narrator, Mary Skol; organist, Venida Jones.

These two filmstrips share a single ten-inch 33 1/3 rpm record. They are intended for the eyes and ears of children seven to ten years of age.

Both subjects are concerned with teaching self-expression to get the highest joy out of Christmas and Thanksgiving. In the Christmas story based on a family the children learn that they can make presents which will delight those who receive them. The Thanksgiving story is based on a family's decision to invite for Thanksgiving dinner a family that has recently lost many of their possessions by fire.

Rather trite and hackneyed, but for children a good lesson in service and unselfishness.

(end)

— CM —

JOY IN CHRISTMAS

(continued from page 43)

through, under impossible loads of suffering and sorrow. They are so like Jesus, the Great Sufferer. They show me how to suffer and triumph, and make me feel, "I can too."

I put first the Robinson family, made immortal through the book "They Made Peace with Polio" recently issued by the Broadman Press. The lovely Alta, helpless but for her smile and two weak fingers goes on doing marvelous things, after eight years, and her parents with her.

And "Marie" (I've told her story before), a miracle of hope and sunshine through nineteen years in the hospital and thirteen operations, and now a miracle of sunshine and kindness to others. Such examples, along with the Great Examplar, stir me to make this the "best Christmas ever."

(end)

— CM —

EMERGENT LOVE

(continued from page 35)

There are several kinds or stages of love; that for an idea, as for social justice, for a principle, as truth, of self, of friends, of parents for children, of children for parents, of husband and wife, and of life. One of love's highest stages of development is reached between two of the opposite sex who unite in all ways; mentally, emotionally, sexually, and spiritually; to achieve new physical and mental powers within the component parts (man and wife), within the love (marriage), and within the offspring. When the person in love is completely conscious of being in love he is born again because he is aware that he is a part of something which is greater than he and which gives him strength beyond his own.

As love developed, still another

stained glass styled for today's church







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faculty developed from it, Spirituality or God-consciousness. As this unfolded, man finally came to a One-God realization, and the concept that this one God has three attributes—the Creator (Father), the Created (Son), and the creative power, Love (Holy Spirit). The properly developed mind may unite with one of its kind to form Human-Love, and with the Universal Mind to form God-Love.

THE FULL CIRCLE

We come now to the final stage of evolution, full circle from beginning to end, each stage starting with its precursor and leading to its successor. But especially does the final synthesis depend on the immediately preceding one. For, like Love, the final integration is between two supra-living entities, the soul of man and God the Creator-Father. Therefore, it is the summation of all, accomplished by the highest form of Love. The synthesis starts with a quest for God, a seeking for union with Him. In the search, the person must understand and experience love, and love must be made the way of life for that person. Anger, hate, revenge, fear and doubt must be left behind. Faith must be found, faith that the quest and the love will lead to union and integration, to God. It is necessary to do for others, to serve, to take up our cross and follow Jesus in His Way of Love. It must be learned that each soul has his or her own cross to bear but that if we help one another the crosses of each are made easier to bear, if love is there to share the burden. When the soul has learned all this it has changed-has been born again, into union with God. This is what we believe Jesus meant when he said, "except a man be born again he can not see the kingdom of God" (John 3:3). This is what we believe to be part of what Iesus meant when he said, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment. And a second is like it. You shall love your neighbor as yourself." Jesus came to show mankind what real love is and what our Creator-Father is like and therefore He can say (John 14:6) "I am the way, the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but by me."

(end)

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They Say; What Say They? Let Them Say

(continued from page 8)

His suggestion that reading from a sense of duty is futile and sound. Our concern must be from a hunger for the reality of God as it comes from His word.

I've often felt that our people do not read the Bible intelligently because their pastor's don't. Indeed, "like priest like people". The shepherd too has been known to lose his way, and the only way for a Christian shepherd to find his way is through a study of the Scripture.

Well, I may not have said much, but I do want you to know that I thought this article has at least caused one minister to think twice about his personal devotional life.

Warren O. Harry Pittsboro, Indiana

WAYS TO MAKE MONEY

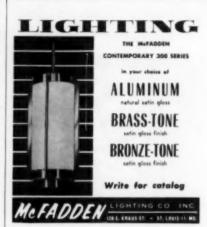
(continued from page 16)

and dance, self-accompaniment of a song with an instrument, etc. Some will give dramatic readings; others, speeches on a developed theme; hence the suggestion that the number of contestants be limited.

The type of prizes to be awarded the winners—whether cash or merchandise—and the number to be given are the responsibility of the committee. A prize can be given to the most congenial girl, based on the vote of the girls with whom she has been associated in the contest. This adds a new twist and promotes sportsmanship.

The intelligence quiz should consist of four or five questions based on current events. This quiz can be submitted by the panel of judges. Bring only one girl at a time on stage, so the others cannot hear the questions being asked nor the opinions of the girl answering them. This is in fairness to all.

Let the "shutterbugs" or camera fans have a holiday photographing the beauties. Be sure to include a professional photographer and put the contestants' pictures in the local newspaper. A brief article concerning the sponsoring club and the activity should accompany the pictures. Give the winner of the first prize the title of Miss or Mrs. (your club name).





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A Song in Your Heart

Mervin A. Bury*

PAGEANT

(White spotlight, right, reveals family in living room.)

Father: Tomorrow is Christmas, the merriest day of the year!

Son: I hope I get some new toys. I would like another car like this one. (holds up toy car)

Daughter: I want a new dolly. (holds up doll) Susie's so lonely.

Mother: We are going to have a wonderful Christmas. But let us not forget the One whose birthday we are celebrating. I think this is a good time to say thanks to God.

Father: You are quite right, Mother. Let us have our family worship at our worship center. (All proceed to table at wall, right. Picture of Jesus on wall. Mother lights candles. Father opens Bible.)

Father: Let us sing a hymn we all love. Daughter: I like "Away in a Manger." Mother: Splendid! Let us sing it.

(Family sings first verse. Then carolers outside are heard singing one verse of "Hark! the Herald Angels Sing." Children run to look out.)

Son: It's the carol singers from the church.

Mother: How wonderful!

Father and Mother: Ask them to come in.

Children: Come in, everybody.

(Orange spotlight, left. Carolers enter and proceed to seats, back. Dialogue continues as they take their places.)

Father: Merry Christmas, everyone. Welcome to our home.

Mother: Merry Christmas. Please be seated.

Leader and Carolers: Merry Christmas! We have come to sing for you.

Father: We were just beginning our family worship. Won't you join us and lead us in our singing?

Leader: We would love to.

Father: Let us read the Christmas story

from God's Word, imagining that it is all taking place before our eyes.

(He reads Luke 2:1-7. Lights off. Manger is set up in center. Enter Mary and Joseph. Blue light on center. Father reads Luke 2:8-15. Carolers sing "While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks by Night." Shepherds enter during hymn.) Son: The shepherds have come. Now I am wondering about the wise men.

am wondering about the wise men.

Father: We shall read about them in

Matthew's Gospel.

(He reads Matthew 2:1-11. As he reads, wise men enter and kneel before the manger. Mary, or other soloist, sings "Mary's Lullaby.")

Sleep, now, Holy Baby, Jesus is your name; Cradled in a manger, Wide will be your fame.

Shepherds tell the story Of this wondrous night; Angels singing "Glory," Midst a heavenly light.

Wise men come adoring Traveling from afar, Bringing gifts, and guided By a shining star.

Sing, ye little children, Let your praises ring— For the Baby Jesus And your Savior King.

(Wise men place gifts in front of manger.)

Father: The wise men have presented their gifts.

Cast

A Christian Family: Father

Mother Daughter Son

(very effective when a church family is selected for these roles) Nativity Scene: Mary

Joseph Shepherds

Wise Men

1. Away in a Manger

Martin Luther
Catharine Luther
2. Silent Night

Joseph Mohr
Franz Gruber
(guitar player)

3. O Little Town of Bethlehem Phillips Brooks Lewis Redner

Carolers: Adult choir, junior choir, or any group of singers Leader

Mother: Let us present gifts too. Son: I'll give my car. (places car with

other gifts)

Daughter: I'll give my dolly. (place)

Daughter: I'll give my dolly. (places doll with gifts)

Father: That is kind of you. What a fine spirit of giving you have! You have shown us all a good example, and we must do our part too. The Christ child through his church can well use every gift; and this year our



^oMinister, King Street United Church, Oshawa, Ontario, Canada. church is raising as much as possible to send help to needy people everywhere, to relieve their suffering and distress. We must give as generously as possible, for we have so much and they have no song in their hearts.

Mother: Let us give all we can right

(Family kneels and places offering on plate in front of manger. Carolers follow example. Minister or leader now invites congregation to share.)

Minister: Let us pray:

Heavenly Father,

Help us be Thy stewards true Of life and wealth and talents too,

That giving Thee our very best

So richly shall our lives be blest. Amen.

(People come forward row by row to place gifts personally on offering plates previously arranged. During offering carolers sing "As With Gladness Men of Old.")

Father: Let us dedicate our gifts:

Father take the gifts we bring, So needy folk Thy praises sing.

Giving thus we join the sages And the wise of all the ages. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mother: Now while the carolers are still here, let us sing our favorite Christmas hymns.

All: Yes! Yes!

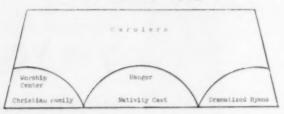
Leader: What would you like to sing first?

Children: "Away in a Manger."

Father: We were singing that song when we heard you caroling outside.

Mother: Before we sing, I wonder if you would like to know something about the songs we sing-who wrote them and how they came to be written. Well, we have been doing some research about Christmas hymns for the Christmas meeting of our Couples' Club. Some of that information will come in useful now. To begin with, no one really knows who wrote "Away in a Manger." Some anthologists attribtute it to Martin Luther, the great Reformation leader, who was very fond of children. But there is no record of it among the collection of his writings. Whoever wrote it was inspired, as the writers of Holy Scripture were inspired, and some of them were unknown too. For our purpose let us assume Martin Luther wrote it as he gazed with his wife Catharine into their baby's face. (White light off. Crib is placed left.

Directions for Staging



There should be a platform or space large enough to permit action facing the audience in four areas:

- Right front: The corner of a living room, with worship center on the right wall, consisting of a picture of Jesus on wall above small table and Bible between two candlesticks containing white candles. Seats for four.
- 2. Center front: Manger scene
- 3. Left front: Dramatized hymns

4. Back: Seating for carolers

Lighting

Lighting is very important in this presentation. It is provided by three spotlights: white or yellow at right on family; blue at center on Nativity group; orange at left where hymns are dramatized.

The appropriate spotlight illumines the area where action takes place as indicated.

Orange light on. Enter Martin and Catharine.)

Catharine: O Martin, how winsome in his crib is our little Hans Martin, how helpless, how innocent, how much a miracle of God.

Martin Luther: Yes, Catharine, every child is a miracle of God. But I am thinking as I gaze upon our baby boy of another Baby who had no crib for a bed, nothing but a manger upon which to lay his sweet head.

(Martin hums a few bars of "Away in a Manger." Then slowly while carolers hum, he sings.)

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,

The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head. The stars in the sky looked

down where He lay, The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

Mother: I am sure that every child who has heard the story of Jesus also loves to sing this song. (turns to audience)
Let us all sing it.

(All sing "Away in a Manger." Exit Catharine and Martin. Orange light off.)

Father: That was spendidly done. What would you like to sing now?

Several: "Silent Night."

Father: The story of "Silent Night" is most interesting. In 1818 Joseph Mohr, a priest serving a community in the Austrian Alps, was working on his sermon on Christmas Eve when he was called out to bless a newborn child. The beautiful experience of the

evening so moved him that he wrote down the words and repeated them at the midnight service. The organist, Franz Gruber, was enchanted by the words and offered to write the music for them. The next morning he returned with the music. Some young people were in the choir loft.

(White light off; yellow on. Enter Mohr and Gruber. Gruber carries a guitar.) Mohr: That is a beautiful tune you have arranged for our hymn.

Gruber: It came easily and naturally.

I'm glad you like it. Let us try it, and since the organ is out of order, perhaps we can sing it to the accompaniment of my guitar.

(Mohr and Gruber sing "Silent Night.")

Young People (carolers): May we sing it too?

Mobr: Certainly, if you think you know the words.

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(All sing, Exit Mohr and Gruber, Orange light off, White light on.)

Father: I think we have time to sing one more song before the carolers move on to the next place.

Mother: I know something about another favorite hymn, "O Little Town of Bethlehem."

Several Carolers: Oh! Oh!

Mother: I see you like it too. It was written by Dr. Phillips Brooks in 1867, one year after he had journeyed to the Holy Land. While in Palestine he had spent a memorable few days at Bethlehem, and he was there on Christmas Eve. In that ancient setting

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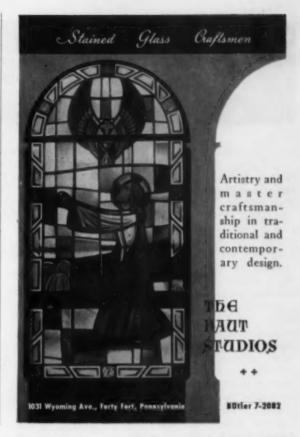
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he experienced vivid impressions of that sacred event that happened when Jesus was born. Those impressions he eventually expressed in poetry. An organist also came to his aid. His name was Lewis Redner. He took the words and promised to compose a tune in time for the children's Christmas service. It was arranged to have the children meet before the service to learn the new hymn, that it might be sung in the service as promised. The children were all seated (turns to carolers) just as you are now. (White light off. Orange lights on, left.

Enter Pastor Phillips Brooks.) Dr. Brooks: Good afternoon, my young

Carolers: Good afternoon, Dr. Brooks. Dr. Brooks: We promised to have our new Christmas hymn ready for today, but I guess Mr. Redner has not finished composing the music. However, let us learn the words. Say them after me please,

O little town of Bethlehem How still we see thee lie; (repeated by carolers) Above thy deep and dreamless sleep

The silent stars go by; (repeated)

Yet in thy dark streets shineth The everlasting Light: (repeated)

The hopes and fears of all the years

Are met in thee tonight. (repeated)

(Redner enters hurriedly, waving a sheet of music.)

Redner: I've finished it! I've finished it! Listen while I play it for you.

(He goes to the piano, or organ, and plays the tune.)

Carolers: O it is beautiful.

Dr. Brooks: That melody is superb, Mr. Redner. Let us all sing it for the first

(During the singing of the last verse Dr. Brooks and Redner exit. Orange light off. White light on.)

Father: There are many other Christmas songs and carols we could tell you about, and which you love to sing, but I know you have other calls to

Leader: Yes, they are expecting us at the hospital. Come, let us be on our

Carolers (standing): Merry Christmas! Mother: Merry Christmas! And thank you for coming. You have helped us to make our Christmas more mean-

ingful. God bless you wherever you go, and wherever you sing. Tell people, young and old, "You can best keep Christmas when there is a song in your heart."

Father: Before you go, please join us as we pray: O God, at whose bidding the angels did sing "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men," accept our thanks for the great gift of Thy Son, and for the song of joy that rises in all our hearts because He came. In His precious name, Amen.

Leader: As we go on our way, let us sing "Joy to the World."

(Carolers, Nativity cast, and actors march from the platform down into the auditorium, where they arrange themselves at intervals in the outside aisles until the whole congregation is surrounded. They finish singing the hymn and stand reverently until benediction has been pronounced.)

Minister (benediction): May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, whose birthday we celebrate, abide in your homes this Christmastide, filling your hearts with joyous songs of praise and thanksgiving, and giving you and yours abundant blessing forevermore.

Amen.

NEW BOOKS

COUNSELLING

BEING MARRIED, by Evelyn M. Duvall and Reuben Hill. Association Press. 440 pp. \$4.95.

GOD, SEX AND YOUTH, by William E. Hulme. Prentice-Hall, Inc. 179 pp. \$2.95.

THE ART OF MARRIAGE COUN-SELING, A Modern Approach, by W. L. Herbert and F. V. Jarvis. Emerson Books, Inc. 125 pp. \$2.75.

Here is this season's spate of books on sex and marriage, focussed on the psychological-physiological-spiritual angle. Only one of these, the Herbert-Jarvis volume, purports to leave the 'spiritual factors" out of consideration. allegedly because the authors "feel we are not qualified to develop this theme." Curiously, however, they do get at the "spiritual" factors in an inverse way, by saying, "We can only state simply our belief that a person who has some idea of what is implied by his emotional maturity is better fitted to make his approach to the ultimate spiritual values." The religious approach would be more likely to start with those ultimate values and to point out how emotional maturity can be realized only through identification with or orientation toward such values.

The Duvall-Hill book is by far the most complete and penetrating of the three reviewed here. It is designed as a textbook for courses in marriage, say on the college or evening school level; or for private reading by those contemplating marriage soon or eventually; or for resource reading in connection with other studies in personality and sociology. The authors, already wellestablished as authorities in the field of marriage counselling, have gathered together abundant research material and have written in a delightfully interesting style. In the effort to be "popular" in their appeal, however, is there any reason to use as one of the subheadings in a chapter such an atrocity (grammatically speaking) as "Who do you love-and how?" (italics ours!)? the book is illustrated with case studies, statistics, charts, pictures, and is characterized throughout by candor, frankness and useful counsel. The least satisfactory chapter is the one on "Finding Religious Roots," which follows the personalistic orientation common during the twenties and thirties instead of the more penetrating newer insights of recent biblical theology.

The Hulme book is an attempt to speak to young people who have all kinds of questions about sex and religion and getting along with others. As such it achieves its purpose in many chapters. At times one hears too much the overtones of a writer who is happier, perhaps, talking to those who do counselling rather than to the counselees. But in spite of this occasional didactic, and elsewhere, overly "inspirational" quality, it will be a good book for many to use.

K.B.C.

FORTRESS BOOKS, edited by Helmut T. Lehmann. Muhlenberg Press. 50-60 pages. \$1.00.

This publication venture resulted from the Lutheran Evangelism Mission, which revealed that there were certain questions that profoundly interested men and women throughout the country. Some of these were categorized, and authors were selected to deal with them in terms easily understandable to adults. Although inexpensive, these are hardbound, well-sewed books that can withstand many readings.

Marriage is treated by Harold Haas, who deals competently with such vital matters as the changing role of marriage, a Christian understanding of sex, divorce, and birth control. Issues are faced honestly and helpfully. As a pastor, I shall want to place this into the hands of many people.

Erik Routley of Oxford has written Conversion. This deals helpfully with many issues associated with the beginnings of the Christian life, although one may question his apparent support for "a second chance" beyond death (p. 24) and what seems, to a Lutheran at least, the relatively minor role that Jesus Christ plays in the drama of salvation.

Olive Wyon, well known for her writings in the devotional field, contributes a volume on *Prayer*. It is clear, thoughtful and usable—everything that a book on this subject ought to be.

Beginning and End of the World, by Martin J. Heinecken, is the most abstruse and difficult of the volumes under consideration. But the issues handled here are significant, deserving the attention that this treatment demands of the reader. Perhaps even more than the others it illustrates the purpose of the series, as the editor views it: "In tackling this task the authors of Fortress Books do not try to make a difficult faith seem easy but to make it easier for the reader to see how demanding Christian discipleship really is and how important it is for him to give meaning to what he believes in what he does.'

LS.

WORSHIP

INVITATION TO WORSHIP, by Clifford Ansgar Nelson. Augustana Book Concern. 178 pages. \$3.00.

Since, as the author correctly states, "the Lutheran liturgy is one of the historic liturgies of the Church Universal," this book should be of interest to many pastors and worshipers outside of the church family to which it is particularly directed. Yet its greatest appeal, certainly, will be to the members of the Lutheran bodies that joined in publishing The Service Book and Hymnal.

As is fitting, the approach taken in not a purely intellectual one, even though sound liturgical scholarship undergirds this exposition. However, Dr. Nelson prefers a devotional invitation to worship as man's greatest experience on earth. A section of the morning worship service is quoted, and then usually four pages are devoted to its explication, in language that will be understood by any adult. In Lutheran circles it might well be used, a chapter at a time, as the Saturday evening family devorion.

Since there is, in some circles, a suspicion that liturgical interest is a manifestation of a non-evangelical

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spirit, it should be added that Dr. Nelson and his family have just left a beautiful, well-appointed church in Saint Paul to serve their Lord in Singapore.

FAMILY BOOKS

SIX CHRISTMAS CANDLELIGHT CAROL SERVICES (Third Series) by J. Harold Gwynne, D.D. Published by the author from 2188 Glenbury Avenue, Lakewood 7, Ohio. 40 pages. One dollar.

Here are six distinctive Christmas Candlelight Carol Services, each well prepared and complete. Each service is replete with suggestions for congregational participation; Preludes and Postludes; Anthems and Solos for use by Choirs and Soloists. Additional provision is made for Readers and for the Minister's participation. The details of each service provide excellent continuity in thought, and the Biblical ref-

erences and meditations are inspiring. There are fine suggestions for candle-lighting, along with five full pages of supplemental poetry. Altogether this is one of the most comprehensive, well outlined and usable booklets ever produced for Christmas Candlelight Carol Services. The themes for the six services are: The Bethlehem Story, The Saviour's Wondrous Birth, The Song of the Angels, Faces Around the Manger, Roads to Bethlehem, The Spirit of Christmas.

Churches and organizations desiring to employ candlelighting as a technique for worshipful atmosphere during the Advent and Christmas Season will find a wealth of ideas and new worship materials in this attractive booklet.

W.F.M.

THE DAYS OF CHRIST'S COMING, by Dorothy L. Sayers. Harper & Brothers. \$1.50.

COME TO CHRISTMAS! by Anna Laura and Edward W. Gebhard. Abingdon Press. 75 cents.

The first of these two booklets is something of an event. A world famous author of fiction, including mystery fiction, writes an account of the birth of Jesus for children. The story follows the Bible text very carefully, but it has been written to the understanding of little children. The book is bound in hard board covers and is beautifully illustrated in colors by Fritz Wegner. The printing, including the colored plates, was done in England. The front cover is decorated with a Nativity scene. This is a de luxe booklet for little children.

Come to Christmas! might be described as a family introduction to Christmas. It traces the days from Thanksgiving to Christmas, week by week. Take the first week as an example. It is entitled "Thanksgiving, Gateway to Christmas." There is printed a selection from Psalm 24 as a hymn the Pilgrim sang; then there is a prayer for the family. Next is a feature, "It's a Family Custom," which is concerned with making presents and planning the Christmas festivities. Other chapters parallel this, with the change that most of them offer a song for the week. There are plenty of illustrations, some black-and-white, some in color. The family that uses this pre-Christmas guidebook will find new excitement and understanding in the holidays.

W.H.L.

(turn to page 56)

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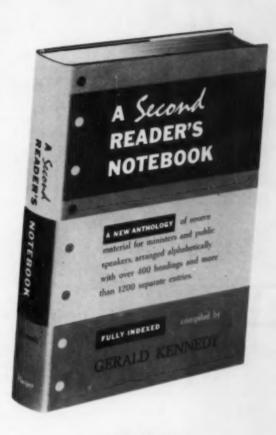
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NEW BOOKS

(continued from page 54)

MY PICTURE STORY BIBLE, by Dena Korfker. Zondervan Publishing House. 512 pages. \$3.95.

There always seems to be a place for a good book of Bible stories for children. This, we think, may take its place along with the best of the others. It covers the whole range of the Bible, starting with Genesis and concluding with Revelation. The text, of course, is written for children, and the language is understandable. There are twenty-four full-page color illustrations by C. P. Robison and Ben Wood, and many other black-and-white sketches by Dirk Gringhuis. A good quality of white paper and large type are used to make the book attractive for children.

W.H.L.

BIOGRAPHY

BROTHERS OF THE FAITH, by Stephen Neill. Abingdon Press. \$4.00.

Here is a well written, not difficult to read book, telling the story in a graphic way of a goodly number of men who across fifty years have worked for Christian unity. The author of the book is known by many to be one of the most ecumenically minded men in the Christian church. It is a story to cheer the art of any who are ever tempted to entertain pessimistic thoughts about the slowness of the church in its progress towards a more united Christian church. For the writer reminds us that in the year 1910 "there was not in existence one single organization through which regular international Christian consultation and action were possible. Not only so; many of the wisest and greatest leaders in the church thought that it was impossible that such organization could be brought into being, and that if it were possible it might not be desirable". "Now" says Dr. McNeill "there has been a steady growing together of the churches in friendship and mutual understanding".

In this gallery of striking portraits, we have brought before us such princes of the church, as John R. Mott, Nathan Soederblom, Charles Brent, Bishop Azariah, Archbishop Germanos, Archbishop Wm. Temple, and others. We are given insights into the contributions these men have made towards the cause of church unity. We see something of

the struggles which they waged, the difficulties they confronted, the obstacles in the way which had to be cleared. The book begins with the Edinburgh conference in 1910, giving us glimpses of some efforts made before this historic conclave. We are carried right across the years, being made coversant with the many conferences and councils held in the intervening years between Edinburgh and the time of the First World Council of churches. The author's story of all that went into the formation of the historic World council in Amsterdam in 1948 is an interesting one. From this representative gathering we are brought right down to the last one held in Evanston, Ill. in 1953. We are reminded that the honeymoon days of cumenicity are over, and some very realistic work has yet to be accomplished before the prayer of our Lord "That they all may be One" is ever realised.

We wonder why, in this portrait gallery, two great souls, with such ecumenical spirits as Stanley Jones, and Kagawa, why these are not even mentioned. Surely these two men and perhaps others deserve even more than a passing tribute, which is not given. This is an invaluable book for all who wish to know more about the story of the church's progress towards the realization of the goal which beckons all true Christians.

A.S.N.

AUDIO-VISUAL

EDUCATORS GUIDE TO FREE TAPES, SCRIPTS AND TRAN-SCRIPTIONS, 1960. 225 pages. \$5.75

EDUCATORS GUIDE TO FREE FILMSTRIPS, 1960. 162 pages. \$6.00.

EDUCATORS GUIDE TO FREE FILMS, 1960. 639 pages. \$9.00.

ELEMENTARY TEACHERS GUIDE TO FREE CURRICULUM MATERIALS, 1960. 345 pages. \$7.50. All published by Educators Progress Service, Randolph, Wisconsin.

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(turn to page 58)

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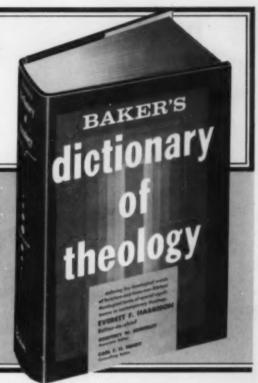
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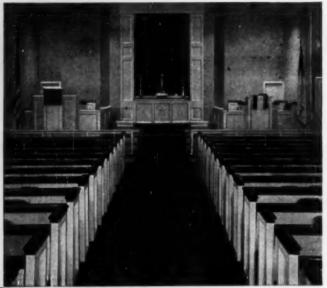
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The Annals is a publication of The American Academy of Political Social Science For the first time in its history it is devoting an entire issue to religion in the United States. This will be the November issue soon to be released. The contents include Trends in Church Membership, Historical Waves of Religiosity, Laity and the Church, Religion and Education, The Ecumenical Movement, and other themes of interest to students of religion. Included is a chapter entitled The Finances of the Local Church which has been written by William H. Leach, Editor of Church Management. Copies of this special issue will be made available to the public. They have been bound in both cloth and paper covers. Paper edition sells for \$2.00. Address the American Academy of Political and Social Science, 3937 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia 4, Pennsylvania.

NEW BOOKS

(continued from page 56)

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THE TINKLING SPRING—HEAD-WATER OF FREEDOM by Howard McKnight Wilson. Garrett & Massie, Inc. 542 pages. \$8.00.

The theme of this book of history, according to the author, is "a study of the Tinkling Spring and Hermitage Presbyterian Churches and their people: 1732-1952." This theme revolves around the conviction that freedom is a functional asset as well as a moral obligation.

The freedom ideas in the volume are found more in the tapestry of the entire writing than in any few words that could be lifted out of the context for examination and quotation. The true voice of church history should be heard to help extend freedom throughout the land.

It is the history of freedom-loving people that covers a fruitful period of adventurous Christian and missionary service across a span of 222 years, from the time of opportunity in 1954, the date the work was printed, back to the year of the arrival of John Lewis in "the back part of Virginia in 1732."

The two churches are in the Fishersville, Virginia, area of Augusta County, amid the Scotch-Irish settlers who first filled up this area of the Beverley Manor Grant.

This volume is the result of long and careful reading and studying of original source materials concerning the religious, social and early political life of the original Presbyterians who settled in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. The documentation and references to the original sources are very fine.



Dr. Wilson has given much attention to the original motivations that made possible the advances toward Christian culture and liberty that are woven into the fabric of this treasure chest of history, biography and genealogy.

Here is far more than a history of Presbyterians of one congregation that began in 1738 and another that started in 1916 as a daughter church. Dr. Wilson shows the position of the "established Church of England" in the Valley of Virginia and how John Craig, the first Presbyterian minister to settle in the area, followed ideas of freedom and liberty in dealing with the Episcopal parish group in the same area.

This book belongs in the libraries of historians, local churches, institutions of higher learning, theological seminaries, and in the homes of people other than Presbyterian. It is more than a local church history, for it can be included among the best of Augusta County histories.

HISTORY

HISTORY OF CHRISTIANITY IN THE MIDDLE AGES by William R. Cannon. Abingdon Press, Nashville, Tennessee. 352 pages. \$4.50.

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The author of this volume is dean of Candler School of Theology, Emory University, and professor of church history and historial theology. Author of two other books, *The Theology of John Wesley* and *The Redeemer*, Dr. Cannon is a graduate of Yale Divinity School and also holds his doctorate of philosophy degree from the same institution.

The Middle Ages is one period in history which the Protestant seems to have very little interest. A large majority of scholars who work in this field

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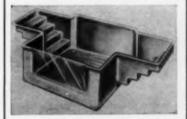
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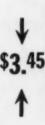
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are members of the Roman clergy. Hence this volume coming from a trained Protestant scholar is an exception. Dr. Cannon, too, realizes the ignorance of the Protestant church view on the subject and offers this clearly written volume.

The development of Christianity from A.D. 476 to A.D. 1453 is the scope of the volume. In eleven chapters the author describes the interplay between Byzantine and Roman Christianity, between the emperors and the popes, and between the state and the church. Dr. Cannon, even within the brief space he has to write, discusses the dogma and doctrine of the various schools of thought in the period. The reviewer was especially interested in the excellent treatment of the monastic orders.

The reading of this book will bring at least two important questions to one's mind. First, after surveying all of the complex doctrines and organizations as Dr. Cannon simply describes them, we may ask: What is the most proper organization on this earth to preach the Good News? Secondly, Is the Good News of Jesus Christ to be propagated with the help of the state?

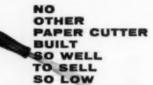
This book would serve as an excellent study for an adult class. It has good index, list of sources, and a list of popes, emperors and patriarchs. A reading of this work ought to make a Protestant more Protestant.

W.L.L.

THEOLOGY

THE THEOLOGY OF THE MAJOR SECTS by John H. Gerstner. Baker Book House, Grand Rapids, Michigan. 206 pages. \$3.95.

Dr. Gerstner, the author of this volume, is Professor of Church History at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. Long a student of the problems of church doctrine, Dr. Gerstner is qualified by world travel to be able to contrast and to compare these sects as found in this country. In writing this book the author has two purposes to serve. He seeks to offer a brief "handbook, designed to provide readyreference material." He summarizes the "basic tenets of traditional Christianity against the background of which to see the vagaries of the sectarian theology." He correctly points out that unless Christian clergy can intelligently and honestly define their own theological positions, they remain impotent workers of Christianity.





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While some writers would not classify the Seventh Day Adventists as a religious cult, Dr. Gerstner does. He believes they do not meet the test of evangelicals. This group is followed by Jehovah's Witnesses, Mormonism, Liberalism, New Thought, Christian Science, Spiritualism, Theosophy and finally Faith Healing. Readers of CHURCH MANAGEMENT may be surprised to find Liberalism listed as a cult. If the Unitarians, for example, would be considered a cult for analysis the reviewer believes that Dr. Gerstner could develop a case study of a group outside his own definition of Christianity. His analysis of faith healing is a study of a movement with many individualists claiming powers which Dr. Gerstner rightly holds can be challenged. Again this group forms not a consistent number of individuals forming an organization cult but rather members making great claims on contradiction to traditional Christianity.

The author has an excellent bibliography, an author index as well as a subject index. There is also included four tables showing the doctrines of the various sects. Brief definitions of the sects are given. There is a glossary of some terms used by the major sects. This book will be a helpful source for the minister wishing to inform himself about these sects who are aggressive and missionary minded.

W.L.L.

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Eucharistic Vestments

WORSHIP LET US BREAK BREAD TO-GETHER by Fred D. Gealy. Abingdon Press. 137 pages. \$2.50.

"Communion Meditations for the Church Year." This book of 72 meditations draws its biblical inspiration from following the seasons of the church year: Advent, Christmastide, Epiphany, Lent, Eastertide, Whitsuntide, and Kingdomtide. They are chronologically arranged, and each meditation begins with scripture and ends with prayer. This is without a doubt one of the most helpful and constructive books of communion meditations to which the church of today has access. It will help many to find the way to the Real Presence.

The author of this book is Fred D. Gealy, Professor Emeritus in the Perkins School of Theology, who for twenty years was professor of New Testament and church music in that institution. This volume of meditations will mean





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more to readers after they have read the information concerning its background in the Introduction by Dean Merrimon Cunningham of the Perkins School of Theology.

When the time came for Professor Gealy to retire from the chair of New Testament, his students and some of his colleagues who had been his students hit upon a plan to show their appreciation of an honored instructor by giving a larger audience the opportunity of receiving some of the benefits of his teaching. Therefore, unknown to him, they made arrangements to record on tape his meditations, chapel talks and other public utterances. This book is the outcome of the enterprise. Those responsible for it have permitted Dr. Gealy to speak to the world, as he has through the years spoken to his colleagues and students.

Central Church

L.H.C.

HOMILETICS

"BIBLICAL AUTHORITY FOR MODERN PREACHING," by Charles W. F. Smith. The Westminster Press. 176 pages. \$3.50.

The author occupies a professorial chair at the Episcopal Theological School in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and has had much experience in preaching himself and in teaching others to preach. He has served as a canon at Washington Cathedral and as a staff member of its College of Preachers. His book is based upon lecture material developed for the clergy of the Episcopal Diocese of Missouri in 1958 and for the graduating class at his theological seminary in 1959.

After a brief preface in which he explains his qualifications and aim in treating his theme the author provides us with six chapters under the following titles: "Is Preaching Outmoded?" "Or is Preaching Essential?" "The Ordering of Biblical Preaching," "Preacher, Bible, and People," "The Claim of the Bible on the Preacher," The Claim of the People on the Preacher." These chapters are followed by an epilogue which is really another chapter entitled: "Getting Started." Under these varied titles the author shares his knowledge and suggestions with his readers. It is clear that he has had much experience as a preacher and that he has read widely in connection with his responsibility as a preacher.

Several pages at the end provide a book list and references.

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THE WAITING FATHER, by Helmut Thelicke. Harper and Brothers. 192 pages, \$3.75.

There are those who regard the author of this book as the greatest of German preachers. In addition to his contribution to present-day Germanic thought as professor of theology in the University of Hamburg he preaches twice each Sunday to one of the largest congregations in the world, those who assemble to hear him filling St. Stephen's Church to its capacity (4000). His sermons are regarded as belonging to the noblest traditions of German preaching. Many have found in his preaching that which suggests the spirit and power of Martin Luther.

The translator of these sixteen sermons is Professor John W. Doberstein of the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Philadelphia, who in explaining certain aspects of his task mentions the danger of a translation not being fair to the original material, but he further states: "I have followed the old rule of translating as literally as possible and as freely as necessary, keeping in mind what Luther said of his translation of the Pentateuch, 'I endeavored to make Moses so German that no one would

suspect he was a Jew'. The challenge of making a highly original German stylist speak in idiomatic American has made the translation of these addresses a rewarding and memorable experience."

This study of the parables of Jesus has been issued in four languages. It was first published in Germany under the title of "God's Picturebook." The English title has been selected because it reflects a theme which runs throughout all of the sermons. We have here a book of considerable importance. No student of the parables can afford to leave it unread.

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Obsolete Church Cemeteries

By Arthur L. H. Street*

The First Presbyterian Church of Newark, New Jersey, was established before 1800, and in the course of years three acres of adjacent burial grounds had become dilapidated and neglected. There had been no interments for more than fifty years, the grounds were no longer visited, and no one indicated any interest in the cemetery or contributed to its upkeep. The church held no strict legal title to that particular part of the cemetery until 1956, when a court decided that the church had title by adverse possession. Having thus secured legal title and responsibility for care of the grounds, the church made application to the Chancery Division of the Superior Court of New Jersey for permission to abandon use of a greater part of the cemetery grounds as such and to thereafter use or dispose of it free of any dedication for burial purposes. The court approved the church's plan. (Trustees of First Presbyterian Church in Newark vs. Alling. 148 Atlantic 2d 510, decided by the Chancery Division of the Superior Court of New Jersey.) The court said:

Respect for the dead does not require that land once used as a burial ground shall forever be hallowed and set aside as a final resting place. If that were so, the dead would in time crowd the living off the face of the earth.

The proposal submitted by plaintiff is sensible, has due regard for the memory of the persons buried in the cemetery, and also recognizes the practicalities of the situation. No good reason appears why plaintiff should be required to continue the existence and maintenance of this cemetery. On the contrary, it is quite clear that the trust, subject to which plaintiff owns this property, has been substantially fulfilled and these lands should now be freed of any dedication for burial purposes. Judgment will be entered approving the plan submitted, and plaintiff will be authorized to carry it out accordingly to its terms.

⁸¹¹Church Management' legal correspondent Gulfport, Mississippi.

Because of the condition of almost all the gravestones, monuments and markers, and the impossibility as a practical matter of moving or relocating them over the common grave, plaintiff will not be required to reset them in the reserved area. They may be disposed of as provided in the plan. In lieu thereof, a single monument, the design of which has been submitted to the court, is to be erected over the common grave.

The judgment will also provide that, subject to the plaintiff's complying with the provisions of the plan submitted, all of the cemetery property less the reserved area will be freed of any dedication for burial purposes, and plaintiff may use or dispose of the same as it sees fit.



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A Sermon For Thanksgiving Sunday

How To Get Your Own Way From God

By David A. MacLennan*

Psalm 37:4—"Delight thyself in the Lord, and He shall give thee the desires of thine heart.

RSV: "Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart. Committ your way to the heart. Commit your way to the act." Psalm 37:4, 5.

Next Thursday would be the most perfect Thanksgiving Day you ever knew if I could give you today a formula by which you could get your own way from God. In each of us there is enough of the child to leap into alertness if someone said, "you can have your dearest wish!"

But here in the Bible is a promise that we may have our deepest desires fulfilled:

"Delight thyself in the Lord, and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart." "He shall give thee the desires of thine heart."

What's the "catch"? the condition?

We understand that there are conditions. Life lays them down. You can have this, if you do that.

G. K. Chesterton pointed out that while human beings understand the conditional nature of life, human beings always try to make the conditions "irrelevant or cheap or easy. The point is illustrated by referring to the philosophy of many fairy tales:

You may live in a place of gold and sapphire if you do not say the word "cow." You may live happily with the King's daughter, if you do not show her an onion. Cinderella received a coach out of Wonderland and a coachman out of nowhere, but she received a command—which might have come out of Brixton—that she should be back by twelve. (Orthodoxy, pp. 99, 100

°Dr. MacLennan has just returned from Europe. His Christmas material for "Priming the Preacher's Pump" will appear in the December issue of "Church Management." quoted by Charles Duell Kean, Christ in our Hearts. Abingdon Press, 1957. pp. 11, 12.

In real life the contingent element has a sharper edge. God says to us, "You may have what you most deeply want on condition.

You may have security if you meet certain requirements which involve all My children. You may have health, world peace, love enduring by meeting a basic condition."

What is this requirement? "Delight thyself in the Lord."

"Delight thyself in the Lord"? "Take delight in the Lord"? But this is asking too much. To believe in God is difficult enough. Indeed many could confess with a French novelist's character when asked if he believed in God—"Yes, no, sometimes." Serve the Lord—in my daily work by integrity, by seeking to advance the cause of Christian truth and brotherhood five days a week and on week-ends, too, that would be—and is—hard enough. But "take delight in the Lord". Is this possible for a person who isn't mystical, and far from being a "spirituelle" type?

It would make better sense to us if we could revise the text, by reversing the order. "If God will give us our heart's desires, we will delight in Him." We could not help it. But would it be true? Do we always thank God when our cup of happiness is overflowing? Another scripture thrusts its bitter truth at us: "He gave them their request but sent leanness into their soul." (RSV: "he gave them what they asked, but sent a wasting disease among them").

No. let's take the text as God inspired it: "Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart."

It is as simple and as uncompromising as that: love God for His own sake. Do you not think that the most useful men and women have been those who learned to take satisfaction in thinking God's thoughts after him, in making His ways as far as they could, their ways; who made God's interests their interests? When you think of certain real persons of our time is it not true of them? They received the desires of their hearts—and it was because they loved God first. Albert Schweitzer has been getting what he most wanted—in Africa. Kagawa in Japan. . . . as earlier Grenfell in Labrador . . . St. Augustine in Rome . . . St. Paul . . .

They got their own way, and are getting their own way from God, because loving Him more than all else, they have learned to love what He loves. This is what Jesus meant when he made that seemingly impossible promise; "Whatever you ask in my name, I will do it." (John 14:14)—"whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you." (John 15:16). To ask in the name of Christ is to ask what he would ask; our desires are screened through his Spirit. We love God in Christ and get what we want for we want what Christ wants. This is more than an easy short-cut to happiness. This is something higher than much popular religion. Never does the Bible, never does the Lord of life say to us, "Love God, worship God, that you may survive as a nation . . . Read the Bible, say your prayers, be kind to the unfortunate, give to the Church and Christian missions in order that you may prosper, have a ripe old age, and be sure of the long future after this phase of life ends.

Margaret Applegarth in a recent book reprints an editorial from an Australian magazine called *Stamp News*. It is hard for us Americans to take, but exaggerated and unpalatable as it is, it stresses the difference between being religious on our own terms and being Christian on God's terms:

"The United States in April broke all records for bad taste and hypocrisy by issuing an 8cent stamp bearing the slogan 'In God We Trust.' If one of the smaller nations—Switzerland,

Denmark or Sweden, e.g., with a proven record of peaceful intentions had used this slogan, it would not have been out of place. Its use in trigger-happy America, however, is as incongruous as would be its adoption by the equally belliocse Soviet Union. Far from trusting in God, the U.S. has shown only too clearly that it trusts nothing but its own ability to assemble a bigger, better and brighter stockpile of Atomic, Hydrogen and Cobalt Bombs than anyone else. The U.S. has deliberately turned its back on Deity, and instead, embarked on a policy of lunacy which could easily lead to the extermination of mankind. For it to use such a slogan is a shocking piece of bad taste. The American clergy has not gone on record to protest "about the stamp, but that will cause no surprise. Were any of them to raise their voice and speak the truth, they would immediately be branded as Commies and hounded from their pulpits by the Senate."*

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Love God, and do as you please, said an early Church father.

Love God as you realize his intention and nature in Jesus Christ, and have what you want. Then happiness will be gained here at home.

This is the working out of a principle (wrote Dr. George Johnstone Jeffrey in *The Quiet Hour*, Church of Scotland Youth Committee publication, 1940). inherent in life itself. Said a great lover of Nature, explaining nature's spell over her worshippers:

Impose your moods on Nature and the moods

Alone return to you. Her joyful ways

Where great and solitary Beauty broods

And makes the world, are hidden from your gaze.

But love her for Herself, unfold your breast

To hear her music and receive her fire—

You shall have Joy and Beauty and the Rest

Of self forgetfulness and dead desire.

Says the Bible, and the men and women of every age who have tried it, women of every age who have tried it, Love God for Himself and you shall

"("Twelve Baskets Full," pages 229, 230. Harper & Brothers, New York, 1957).

have the very gifts the poet sets forth.

(1) You shall have Joy. You shall have the joy which comes from belonging to a great God and to the Church which is his instrument and agent in earth. Today we welcome into the fellowship of this household of faith friends who we hope have learned already to speak of this as their church. But there is a sense in which it is not our Church but His who called us to serve and worship Him here. Did you hear of a lusty Texas character of the

early wild days of the Lone Star State. His name was Shanghai Pierce. He owned a 200,000 acre ranch and decided to "introduce religion" and built a small church. A visitor asked Mr. Pierce, "Do you belong to this Church?" Mr. Pierce answered violently, "Hellno! It belongs to me." Reflect on that, without the profanity. It was an accurate report. The big rancher did not belong to the church. It belonged to him. There is a misuse of the innocuous and some-

(turn to page 75)







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The Minister As A Prophet

Alfred Doerffler*

The minister of Jesus Christ is also a PROPHET. As such he must sense the significance of the time in which we live and recognize its problems, pitfalls, and dangers. He must endeavor to interpret these in the light of Scripture and history.

In our day and our time people are much upset, more than ever, confused, regimented, abnormal, morally warped, and spiritually indifferent. Our age is largely a-moral. Many leaders in the field of science and technology feel that their responsibility ceases when the product or the invention leaves their hands. What people do with the missile or the gadget is of no concern to them. What MORAL effect these scientific developments have on the people is not their problem. On the other hand, those who use these technical devices do not discipline themselves MORALLY in the use which they make of these inventions and discoveries. Our age is materialistic, secularized, unspiritual, and selfcentered. We are an undisciplined and unprincipled people. Morally and ethically we are not advancing nor improving. No longer are we shocked by brutality, rape, increase in illegitimacy, murder, crime. We seemingly accept them with canny complacency, as normal and natural. In many instances we cater to and shield abnormalcy and excuse it, rather than seeing in it the result of sin and an offense against the moral laws of our Creator-God. Our age does not accept unchanging, eternal laws, binding upon all at every age level and all times.

Living in Fear

Nevertheless, our age which wants to bind itself to no unalterable code is haunted by perpetual fear. We realize that any gadget in unscrupulous hands means doom and death to millions. Our age has become an age of brutality with finesse. This is the natural sequence. If we are a-moral, if right is a matter of opinion, if there are no unchanging, MORAL principles, if each code can be bent to suit our selfish purposes and

The veteran minister of St. Louis, paster emeritus of the Pilgrim Evangelical Lutheran Church, concludes his series of articles.

desires, then brutality is defensable. Each ideology sets up its own code of right and wrong and becomes intolerant over and against each and every person who cannot be brainwashed into accepting that particular thought-pattern. All this makes us afraid of one another and this fear too often makes us reckless and foolhardy.

Our age fails to recognize the importance of self-discipline and selfrestraint. Less we be misunderstood, we want to say that restraint is not the same as repression, as many want us to believe. We MUST master our own self. Otherwise we are in for trouble physically, socially, morally, and spiritually. To follow through with every urge of our emotions and passions leads to SELF-destruction. Man is natively sinful. His tendencies are downward toward evil. As PROPHET the minister of the Gospel must recognize this basic, fundamental truth as stated by Jesus: "For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts.-All these things come from within, and defile the man." Mark 7, 21, 23. In Jeremiah 17, 9 the Lords says: "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked." This fact the minister-prophet must ever keep in mind if he wants to be helpful to mankind steeped in sin. "The imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth." Gen. 8, 21.

Living Dangerously

Because we live in such a glorious age of material advantages we live dangerously without permanent security and lasting hope. We are living in a fool's paradise. So we eat, drink, do what we will, for tomorrow we may be dead, killed in an automobile crash or by a bomb. In that kind of world we Christians must live dedicated lives. dedicated to the cause of Christ. Believers must let all mankind know that they belong to Jesus and have found in Him that eternal security and everlasting peace which makes us unafraid of anything that may happen to nations and people. We who are children of God's grace know that we cannot perish eternally, that there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.



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As prophet, then, the minister speaks with authority of the unageing and unchangeing truths, revealed in Scripture and through Christ. Therefore he must be positive and be certain. As he and his members live and move in the world and their community, people must sense by their conduct from Sunday morning till Saturday night that they have a joy in their heart, a peace that passeth understanding, and a salvation guaranteed through Christ's death and resurrection. This Gospel makes Christians unafraid of bombs and death. Gospel preachers must call sin by its real name, but they must at all times emphasize that there is an escape from the power and curse of sin, found at the cross of Calvary, where Jesus made atonement for all mankind and all sin.

As prophet the minister must stress at all times that God is a RIGHTEOUS God. His universe is NOT NEUTRAL. God's laws of the universe are MORAL. passing judgments on the acts of man and inflicting punishment on those who act contrary to these natural laws of the creation. All these laws of nature and of the universe have MORAL IMPLI-CATIONS. To each and every act of man there is a wrong and a right. Rush toward fire and you burn yourself; back away from the same fire and you spare yourself burns and pain. That cheating in "exams" is accepted as normal by quite a few students and defended by them does not make it right. That a man thinks he has a right to satisfy his sex-instinct and urge, regardless how, does not make it right, nor is he going to escape the eventual penalty of his wrongdoing.

Only One Act Right

We must never forget that, when two opposite statements are made, BOTH cannot be right. If one says that the automobile was green and the other that it was black, then BOTH cannot be right. BOTH may be wrong, but never can BOTH be right. Often we hear it said: "That is a matter of opinion." However, if someone thinks, believes, acts different from you, BOTH OF YOU may be wrong, but both of you cannot be right. As prophet of the Lord, the minister has the sure Word of God to guide him in the interpretation of right and wrong, of right living and God-pleasing conduct. The Christian prophet-minister can speak with authority as he proclaims God's Word: "Thus saith the Lord." This gives emphasis to what he says. His message is

(turn to page 71)

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THE MINISTER AS A PROPHET

(continued from page 68)

not "one man's opinion."

By its implications, then, Christianity is MORAL in its interpretation of life and the universe. The cross and the atonement focus on MORAL issues. Man has sinned—a MORAL issue; God is righteous—a MORAL issue; Jesus made good for sin—a MORAL issue; Jesus freed us from the curse of the Law—a MORAL issue. If the universe is NOT MORAL, but neutral, then the death of Jesus makes no sense. Therefore, Christianity is a WAY of life, not a set of rules. Christian faith transforms the ENTIRE man. We walk in a newness of life, says Scripture.

Only in this faith and life, created by the Holy Spirit through the Gospel, can man have peace with God and with himself, have a hope which goes beyond this life, and has a salvation which is sure. All this is underwritten by the cross of Christ, offered to us by grace, and is ours personally through faith in the cleansing power of the blood of Christ. Only through the cross and God's mercy can we live in grace, daily have our soul cleansed and restored to grace and kept in this grace wherein we stand.

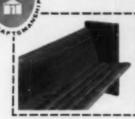
As PROPHETS of the Most High God, Christian ministers are called to proclaim the Gospel of Reconciliation through the cross of His Son. They must never lose sight of the fact that man's hope of salvation and the world's betterment is found only at the cross. There humanity becomes more than conqueror over sin and crime, hatred and violence, and learn to live peaceably with others who travel through this present world toward eternity. As weary and sin-sick souls are led to Calvary they find healing and forgiveness and a richer and fuller life, for they learn at the cross that nothing in this life nor in the life to come can separate them from the love of God which is theirs through the atoneing sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

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In the cross of Christ I glory
Towering o'er the wrecks of time;
All the light of sacred story
Gathers round its head sublime
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pleasure,

By the cross are sanctified; Peace is there that knows no measure, Joys that through all time abide. As in everything else, there's

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glass windows. The designs can be torn out of the book and used for window effects by pasting on glass. Instructions are included on how to get translucent effects etc. Price \$1.00.

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A POWER WITHIN

I talked to Dutch Warmerdam, the boy who holds the world's record in the pole vault. He said, "Bob, I've never cleared a height over 15 feet without asking God to help me, and I know He has." I've talked to one fellow after another, fellows like Parry O'Brien, Bob McMillen, other boys in the world of track and field, all-American basketball players, all-American football players like Don Moomaw and others, who all say that they call on God for strength.

There's a power in which you live and move and have your being, and if you'll call on that power, it will help you accomplish the great things and the good things of life.

Bob Richards, Olympic champion, in The Heart of a Champion (Fleming H. Revell Company)

NEW BOOKS

THE LIFE AND TEACHING OF JESUS by Edward W. Bauman. The Westminster Press, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. 240 pages. \$3.95.

This book has a very interesting origin. Its author is at present chaplain and Assistant Professor of Religion at the American University in Washington D.C. Here he presented on a thirty-week series of television programs the first fully accredited college course in religion. It was sponsored by the University and by the Council of Churches in Washington D.C. Dr. Bauman served a number of Methodist Churches before going to American University.

Since the author's audience would have a varied background and yet on a college level of instruction, the approach would have to be interesting, clear and

enthusiastic. These qualities are found in his presentation. Two chapters introduce the reader to the kind of world Jesus lived in and to the available sources about His life. Six chapters cover the early life, Galilean ministry, Judean ministry, and finally the crucifixion and resurrection. Part Three covers the teachings of Jesus. Around the concepts of Jesus as teacher, His Messiahship and the Kingdom of God, Dr. Bauman discusses his subject. He gives the alternative interpretations, sometimes stating which one is preferred. He leaves the reader free to accept what seems the reasonable one. Two chapters form the conclusion of the book-the study of the Gospel of John and an analysis of the uniqueness of Jesus.

W.L.L.



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HOW TO GET YOUR OWN WAY FROM GOD

(continued from page 67)

times meaningful phrase "my church". This occurs when we say "my church," as we would "my car", "my club". It is "a pleasant appendage of life". But if we truly belong to the church "its Gospel will dominate us, it will have the right of way in our lives and be a real and vital part of all its efforts to hasten the Kingdom of God on earth." (H. E. Luccock).

You will have joy. The joy of belonging, the joy of working with God for the creation of a world-encircling redeeming community. You will know the joy of seeing men and women who trust in Christ gaining courage and power to handle pain and disappointment "wounds and sore defeat".

(2) You will have Beauty. You will show forth the beauty of Christlike character, the fairest of all the fair. That is why the plainest faces are beautiful; the inner light shines through. Mark Twain said of the Negro coachman who saved his daughter's life, in danger by a runaway horse, that when they went to thank him his face was simply beautiful. But a camera—shot might have showed no difference than before his selfless act.

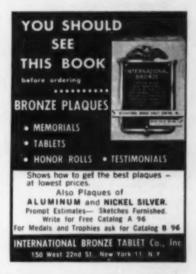
(3) You will have Rest, the rest of self-forgetfulness. The rest which comes from centering down in God's love and power. Men and women who make God and God's service day by day their passion and delight seem to have escaped so much that frets and frustrates.

You can have your heart's desires, by opening your life to God's love. You can't do this with your head. But you can do it with your neck. Stick your neck out to love to make others thankful... Reach out your hand with love to life. "We seem to be so constructed that the only way our hearts can contain God's love is as channels, not as reservoirs."

O God, who hast prepared for them that love thee such good things as pass man's understanding, pour into our hearts such love towards thee, that we, loving thee above all things, may obtain thy promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ our Lord: Amen.

Unto God's gracious mercy and protection we commit you and all whom you love and all the children of God everywhere.







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Church Management, Inc.

We will send one year's subscription (value \$3.50) to the chairman of your building committee if you will give us information about your building program in the spaces provided at the right. Your chairman will not only receive the magazine, but literature valuable in planning will be sent from several sources."

Church Management

Cut Here and Mail to	Cleveland Heights 18, Ohio
Name of Church	Size of Membership
Chairman of Building Committee	*
Address	
Architect	
Address	
Planning to Build: () Entire New Church;	() Worship Unit Only;
() Educational Unit; () Parish House	
	Yes () No ()
Approximate Cost \$	
Signed	

TWO TOP RECORD FORMS

For Church Membership

Family Church Record and Personnel File*

NOTE THESE FEATURES

- 1. Fits the standard size letter filing cabinet
- 2. Complete church record for each member of the family
- 3. Records pastoral calls

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- Provides a folder for supplementary family information, confidential counseling material, etc.
- File may be transmitted to new church if membership is transferred
- 6. Puts flesh and blood on dry-as-bone statistics

PRICE: 7c each

If you now have a filing case, the complete system for a church of 100 families will cost but \$7.00; a church with 200 families, \$14.00; a church of 500 families, \$35.00.

SINGLE CARD RECORD

For churches which desire the large-sized record but do not care for the filing folder, we offer the form as printed above on heavy card stock 9½ x 1134 inches.

5c each; \$5.00 per 100

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Note that the family name is visible at all times. The information for each member is complete. Actual size of folder, 9½ x 11¾ inches.

*Developed under the supervision of John W. Meister, and first used in the First Presbyterian Church, Fort Wayne, Indiana.

For Recording Weekly Contributions

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(Send 25c for samples of these and other forms)

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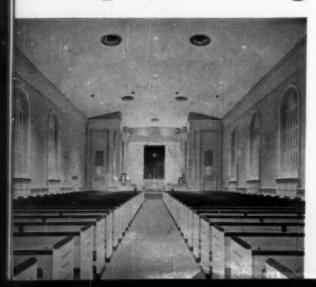


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